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BANZER: NATION PREPARED FOR WAR IF NECESSARY

PA011620Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1602 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Text] La Paz, 1 Apr (EFE)--Bolivia would go to war with Chile if necessary, President Hugo Banzer said today in the City of Cochabamba. General Banzer emphasized that Bolivia's desire to recover its coast must be realized by the strengthening [la potenciacion] of the country and through the cooperation of international organizations.

Banzer, who decided to break diplomatic relations with Chile on 17 March, has been explaining the reasons for his decision to the citizenry.

The president also announced that if there is general public opposition to the elections, the government's action in this regard may be modified. This is the second time that General Banzer has mentioned the possibility of changing the announced plan for the constitutionalization of the country. Banzer also stated in Cochabamba, located in central Bolivia: "I hope and pray to God" that fears will not be generalized regarding the negative consequences that some see in the elections. Concluding, he asserted that he does not wish "to have to interrupt the process that agrees with the democratic essence of the government of the armed forces."

Banzer Quoted on War

PY011710Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1705 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 1 Apr--Today Bolivian President Hugo Banzer stated that there is a possibility of war with Chile to recover the outlet to the sea. Banzer told journalists about this possibility in Cochabamba by stating that "should we have to resort to war one day, we would have to do it," to recover the sea outlet lost in the War of the Pacific.

Banzer Explains Break

PY312040Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1701 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Cochabamba, Bolivia, 31 Mar--President Hugo Banzer stressed here today [as received] that "Brazil never applied any pressure during the Bolivian-Chilean negotiations" and that "the Peruvian Government was always kept informed on the development of the talks."

Banzer started a tour today [as received] of several of the country's cities to report personally to the people on the development of Bolivian-Chilean negotiations from the so-called "Charana embrace," when the two countries resumed their relations on 8 February 1975, to the latest severance on 17 March.

Banzer stated before about 100 prominent local people: "There was never any pressure by Brazil. This is shown by the support which the Itamaraty Foreign Ministry decided to give to the Bolivian cause." He added: "Two days after our proposal to Chile had been submitted on 25 August 1975, the armed forces government sent a special envoy to Peru to explain the Bolivian position to the Lima government." Banzer further said: "Peruvian Foreign Minister Miguel Angel de la Flor received our special envoy in the Foreign Ministry in the Torre Tagle Palace on 28 August 1975 and received a detailed report regarding the Bolivian proposal to the Chilean Government."

He stated: "The talks with the Chilean government were not held behind the backs of the people, because we made various kinds of consultations which became widely known by the country."

Banzer said: "During our diplomatic efforts to obtain a just solution of our maritime problem we often received support from friendly governments and from nations which defend justice in foreign relations." He added: "We did not go to meet President Augusto Pinochet just for an embrace at the border; we went because we thought the opportunity was favorable to discuss our maritime aspirations."

He continued: "The condition for resuming relations with the Chilean Government, which we explained in Charana on 8 February 1975, was that dialog should be used exclusively toward a solution of the Bolivian maritime problem."

Regarding the new severance of relations with Chile, President Banzer explained that this situation had been reached "because all diplomatic means were exhausted." He added: "Chile did not keep the commitment made at Charana. The final goal has not been reached but Chile and Peru have recognized in documents the need and the right supporting the Bolivian cause of obtaining a sovereign outlet to the Pacific."

Banzer concluded by stressing: "The Bolivian march toward the sea will not be halted just because efforts are made abroad to deny us our future."

CHILEAN TROOPS REPORTED MOVING TO BOLIVIAN BORDER

PY311738Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 31 Mar--The La Paz morning paper EL DIARIO asserted today that 1,000 Chilean troops with mountain artillery and strong logistical support have reinforced the Chilean border units at the Bolivian border. The report did not say whether the Bolivian high command has reinforced its troops at the border between the two nations.

Bolivian Army Commander Gen Alfonso Villalpando stressed here today that "the best defense of a country is the patriotic conviction of a people who defend their territory and do not accept any provocations."

Thousands of Bolivian peasants living near the border are on the alert to prevent any Chilean penetration in Bolivian territory.

Villalpando concluded by saying: "We will not accept provocations, but will act calmly."

Military Chief Confirms Movements

PY311910Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 31 Mar--Gen Victor Gonzalez Fuentes, chief of the Joint Chiefs Staff of the Bolivian Armed Forces, admitted here today that Bolivia and Chile have made troop movements on their common border. He added: "The armed forces of the nation must keep alert so that the sovereignty of the country will be respected. We can also move our military units within our own borders in order to guarantee the security of the nation."

He indicated that Bolivian fighter planes "have overflown our border areas on routine missions to protect our sovereignty."

He said that "our borders are protected and the armed forces are carrying out their mission to protect the nation, as our military institutions should."

In response to questions of journalists about an alleged violation of Bolivian airspace by Chilean military helicopters, General Gonzalez said that reports in this regard were being studied. He explained that "peasants' reports to this effect are being checked by the high command, but since the persons who reported this are very simple people, it is difficult to reach concrete conclusions."

Gonzalez emphasized "the need to avoid alarmism because troop movement inside a nation is normal." He added that "the important thing is that these military units should not cross the border of neighboring nations." The officer refused to give further details about Chilean military units which are currently reinforcing border garrisons. "In any case we are alert to protect national sovereignty throughout the country," concluded General Gonzalez.

MINERS' UNION WILL HAVE RADIO STATION RETURNED

FY311450Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Radio 21 de Diciembre, property of the mineworkers of the Catavi District, will again be managed by the mineworkers' union of that district. This was reported to Radio Panamericana by official spokesmen for the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB], who stated that the return of Radio 21 de Diciembre to the mineworkers will take place on Saturday this week at [numbers indistinct] hours.

The radio station was closed by government decree in (?July) 1976 and since then the mineworkers of the district [words indistinct] have complied with the disposition of officials (?of the district).

The Catavi mineworkers union has now published a protest, saying that it will sue government officials for illegal use of union property, particularly Radio 21 de Diciembre.

The radio station will come under the management of [name indistinct], secretary of the Catavi mineworkers union.

BRIEFS

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN--Foreign Minister Oscar Adriaola and Japanese Ambassador Takayoshi Tsuda yesterday signed an agreement of technical cooperation between the two countries. It provides for the identification of areas suitable for technical cooperation within the Bolivian program of economic and social development. [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 78 PY]

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP

Visit Could Improve Relations

PYJ11644V Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Prospects of Better Relations"]

[Excerpt] There is no doubt that yesterday's and today's talks were and will be conducted in the light of the speech President Carter made to the Venezuelan Congress, in which he established in general terms his idea of the relationship between industrialized and developing countries, the role which the United States plans to play in order to eliminate the hostile atmosphere at the North-South talks, and the basic position of his government toward the controversial human rights issue. In Caracas, the head of the White House emphasized that regarding human rights, the United States wished to reassert its decision not to intervene in the domestic affairs of other countries, but does not give up its right to express its own opinion on these matters. The U.S. leader clearly stated that this issue concerns the entire international community which, in fact, has the responsibility of supporting those nations seeking to reinstate procedures and institutions capable of protecting every individual's right to be free, to not suffer from the arbitrary treatment of the powerful, and to guarantee each and every citizen a fair chance to a decent life. It seems that we are now dealing with a more realistic attitude--an attitude emphasized by Carter and Andres Perez' decision to ask OAS to examine the situation in Nicaragua--although it is an attitude which still leaves much room for conflict because it demands that the countries which have vowed respect for international law must give permission to the community of nations to inspect the fulfillment of freely undertaken commitments. In this regard President Geisel was very clear (even though he was talking of U.S. Senate activities alone) when he rejected "any foreign interference in this problem." As to the nuclear problem, Carter's speech upon his arrival in Brasilia, in which he accepted Brazil's peaceful intentions, is a sign of a beginning of an understanding.

Even if it is true that Brazil has little to offer the United States and that the future relations between the leading powers of the hemisphere will depend on the way in which Carter conducts the talks, it is equally true that the U.S. President must have found President Geisel open to negotiations. In fact, the Brazilian president acknowledges that the relations between the two countries are good and can be better still. In this regard, President Geisel brought up a very important subject during his interview [with CBS]: A better understanding between the two countries also depends on the United States being humble enough to acknowledge that our problems (and their solutions) cannot be viewed from the sole point of view of a country which--due to its historical background, the strength of its institutions and its overwhelming economic weight in the Western world--has found different solutions for possibly similar problems.

If during their talks the two chiefs of state bear in mind that the world crisis demands more efforts toward understanding--paying less attention to occasional conflicting interests and differing viewpoints of the political process--hemispheric solidarity will be strengthened, and through it will be strengthened the position of the free world which is now faced with the Soviet threat from the other coast of the Atlantic.

President's Rio Schedule

PY311428Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 31 Mar 78 PY

[Report by Clovis Mesias from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] Dear early listeners: This is reporter Clovis Mesias directly from Rio de Janeiro informing you of the arrival of President Carter to this marvelous city. He arrived here around 1513 and placed a wreath at the Monument to the Unknown Soldier. The few sightseers were kept approximately 300 meters away from the site of the ceremony. At about 1545 the President boarded an armored Cadillac and left by Flamengo Avenue for the Pequena Gavea [residence] on Pedra Bonita St.

When he arrived, and before he had a chance to rest, Mrs (?Ide Moraes) arrived and was either thrown out or not very well received by security forces. This was the only incident which took place between security personnel and the citizens. It seems that Mrs (?Ides Moraes) said "You can do nothing to me here in Rio de Janeiro," but nevertheless the friend of the Carter family was expelled immediately. She said that when the two Carters were here in 1972, when Carter was governor of Georgia, her husband (?Benjamin Moraes) had acted as Carter's interpreter at the Presbyterian Church [words indistinct].

Once everything was solved President Carter, his retinue, and 40 automobiles left for a yacht club in Rio de Janeiro to dine on board the (?Ona Capri) yacht owned by the businessman Sergio Dourado. The trip on the yacht started at around 1902 and was escorted by two boats of the security forces.

In a few moments, that is at 0900, and shortly before boarding the plane for Nigeria, President Carter is scheduled to meet with Sao Paulo Archbishop Paulo Evaristo Arns; Rio de Janeiro Archbishop Eugenio Salles; Director-President of Sao Paulo newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO Julio Mezquita Filho; National Economic Development Bank President Marcos Vianna; and the president of the Brazilian Bar Association Raymundo Faoro.

This is to be followed by the (?farewell) ceremony and the departure from the airport of Galeao at 1030.

In view of this we could say that each of the meetings will hardly last more than 4 minutes and since there is talk that the Brazilian press will be able to hold a brief interview with President Carter, the persons scheduled to meet him will have even less time with the President.

Carter's Visit Analyzed

PY311610Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Mar 78 p 2 PY

[From Castello's Column: "The Carter Visit and Brasil-Power"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. chief of state's visit has offered U.S. observers the chance to compare power structures in the two countries. This comparison makes it clear that the President of the United States has a share of the power, but not all of it. There, power is divided among the Congress, the Supreme Court and public opinion, which uses the press as its great instrument to intervene in domestic affairs. President Carter is conditioned by the system of which he is a part. In Brazil there is nothing to counterbalance the power of the president, who reigns sovereign, imposing his ideas and his decisions, while Mr Carter is limited by the nature of his country's institutions, General Geisel can fully exercise authority given him by the laws of exception under which he governs.

The groups opposing the Brazilian Government have no effective operational instruments due to the lack of autonomy, the restrictions imposed on freedom of the press, and the dissension [desentrosamento] within opposition groups. At any rate, newspapers, with whatever freedom they have, have been exposing contradictions and contrasts, laying bare power relationships and revealing the dissension hiding under a facade of unity on which the power structure is based. That should be an important factor in the reorganization of institutions which, within the year, will be under the leadership of General Figueiredo, aided in the states by the neo-oligarchies which rest on economic bases more powerful than the traditional rural sources. The medium-term effects of that institutional reform will be differentiated by structures creating foreseeable balances among power groups.

But let us return to President Carter and his presence in Brazil. His visit is not likely to have any effect on Brazilian developments, even if he has the opportunity to reaffirm his human rights policy, a show of authenticity which should not be interpreted as interference in the Brazilian political process. His meeting in Rio with personalities from various fields will be the only event to cause Itamaraty concern over his presence. The meeting with Cardinal Arns and with Mr Faoro, president of the bar association, will be held together with others. The meeting will last a relatively short time and, according to U.S. predictions, nothing more than generalities will be discussed. The cardinal will not have his longed-for private meeting with the U.S. President, who is going to limit person-to-person contacts to official circles.

More than he himself, his advisors will have the chance to X-ray and diagnose the political situation in Brazil, because they have more freedom to do so and because their meetings and contacts are less publicized. Anyway, by talking with President Geisel and General Figueiredo and by reading the reports of his advisors, the U.S. chief of state will take with him a more precise image of Brazil and up-to-date information concerning the domestic process in Brazil which, as he knows, now exercises a fairly broad influence on international affairs.

Students Issue Protest

PY311838Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Mar 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Salvador--With the signatures of the central student directorate and of more than 11 student centers, the students of the Federal University of Bahia [UFBA] released a note yesterday, taking advantage of President Jimmy Carter's visit to Brazil, in which they assert that "the Brazilian people and all peoples who desire freedom do not accept regimes which do not respect human dignity." "For this reason we do not approve the visit of this chief of state who is aiding another oppressive government which is supported by the armed forces and the police. We are tired of being subjugated, massacred and exploited. For this reason we appeal to all Brazilian students, all democratic people and all patriots to reject and repudiate foreign exploitation, principally American exploitation," reads another passage of the note.

The note of the Bahia students, which was distributed throughout all UFBA departments and the city, begins by saying: "Today, 29 March, Gen Ernesto Geisel receives the visit of President Jimmy Carter. They will discuss matters of common interest, but, what are these interests?" The note then indicates that "In 1975 the Congressional Investigation Committee [CPI], which was in a hurry for multinationals to invest in Brazil, reached the conclusion that the 11 largest foreign firms alone invested approximately \$299 million during the last 10 years and have reinvested \$693 million in Brazil.

"This domination, helped by the action of the cartels, has caused the failure of Brazilian industries through use of such techniques as the creation of a reserve fund to block newcomers and industrial sabotage. In other words, the United States participates in this game with 37 percent of foreign industry and it is the country which, more than any other, creates dependency for Brazil," asserts the students' note.

Therefore, according to the document of the Bahia students "The foreign debt today amounts to \$30 billion. The Brazilian worker, with every day that goes by, has to tighten his belt due to the austere salary policy suggested by the IMF to the military government in order to control inflation. Regarding this matter, the cost of living is rising frighteningly, forcing 95 percent of the population to suffer from malnutrition and illnesses caused by parasites. The privileged 5 percent represent the portion of the population holding economic power in the country, which in turn depends economically on the YANKEES."

Regarding the educational sector, the note of the UFBA students asserts that "we have an educational system which fully favors American interests and this is proven by the Education Ministry-USAID agreement. Also due to this treachery against popular interests, Brazil suffers from a lack of its own technology; it has to be imported. There are no incentives for research; education is faulty. The multinationals finance technical and university courses thus gaining specialized manpower for their industries."

According to the note, "this human rights policy will not confuse the people who are going hungry, who live in neolithic dwellings and subhuman conditions in order that a smiling president can preach lies."

Rezende's Welcoming Address

PY010215Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Text of speech delivered by Senator Eurico Rezende in honor of President Carter on 30 March]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mr President; It is our distinguished honor to extend to Your Excellency the greetings of the Federal Senate. We could not be more moved by the mission which has been entrusted to us.

Your Excellency is the highest-ranking authority of a nation which is Brazil's traditional friend. Naturally, the courses of our two nations' histories are different, but throughout all this time we have shared certain essential values such as support for democracy, belief in the importance of the individual, and the conviction that progress and happiness are rights which belong to everyone.

For decades, the United States of America has been the leading power of the West. That privileged position allows Your Excellency's government to exercise a direct influence on the destiny of the Western World. Of course, that is a heavy responsibility because Your Excellency has to determine at all times, while maintaining a balance, what is in the specific interest of his country and what corresponds to the goals of the remaining Western nations, developed or underdeveloped. Such an important distinction conditions the very functions of our community of nations, which is why we wish to express our most sincere hopes that Your Excellency carry out this task well.

Brazil, while maintaining solidarity with the West, has known how to keep up with signs of the times and to exercise its autonomy. Your Excellency knows our country well. Therefore, you know about our problems and the obstacles we are struggling to overcome. You know that we always stand beside the United States of America during critical moments, and that our understanding and cooperation have been spontaneous.

Today, Mr President, we are working toward the great task of national construction. In industrialized countries, progress comes about from a natural evolution, at its own pace and with an abundance of resources. Brazilian history is different. In developing nations, progress is a phenomenon which has to be induced. The meager resources for investment have to be distributed according to economic, and also social, priorities. Your Excellency can clearly see how the realities of each of these worlds are different.

The Brazilian people have tried to capture the energy which is most dearly its own, and has tried to reconcile its democratic vocation and the demands of national development. In that effort we have placed all our zeal toward solving, as harmoniously as possible, the difficulties inherent in the national political process. Likewise, we have tried to correct, with a spirit of justice, existing socioeconomic differences, structures we inherited from a distant colonial past.

The National Congress is well aware that all these issues are Brazil's domestic problems which the Brazilian people should consider and solve. As is our tradition, we are open to external contributions, but we know that disinterested contributions are rare, as are contributions moved by gestures of true self-denial and sacrifice. Therefore, we see our task of national construction as one taking part in the international scene, although autonomously, and obeying economic market mechanisms and established norms of political coexistence. Consequently, by fulfilling our duties toward our people and our country, we feel we are reaffirming the ideals of the Western community of free, united, prosperous and sovereign nations, in the best way possible.

Mr President, it is against the Brazilian spirit to begin or to feed controversies. We always prefer to emphasize that which unites rather than that which could divide. During your contacts during this visit, Your Excellency will probably be able to evaluate just how positive and constructive the feelings of the Brazilian people and their authorities are toward the United States of America and its President. It is our tradition and our desire. Mutual respect is enough for such a strong desire for understanding to become a concrete, harmonious and constant cooperation. It is possible to achieve a great deal if we start with reciprocal moral values, and if we recognize that progress in all fields of human activity is a right and a duty which indissolubly unites all peoples and all nations while demanding shared sacrifices.

In this sense, we understand that the relationship between Brazil and the United States of America demands that new roads for cooperation be explored. Your Excellency knows how well this country receives foreign cooperation, which we believe to be an essential complement to national savings. However, we have to admit that this participation, as is natural, is related to market conditions and subsequently to risks and capital remuneration. This way does not completely satisfy the sense of moral responsibility, of willing participation which are so closely linked to our shared concern for the struggle against human misery. We believe, without wanting to propose or to return to the past, unsuccessful welfare programs, that with greater understanding it would be possible to seek a more rewarding cooperation, especially in the fields of commerce, finance and free scientific and technological development.

Mr President: Welcome, Your Excellency, to Brazilian soil. We wish your stay in our country to represent a landmark in the history of relations between Brazil and the United States of America. We hope your excellency will sense the esteem and admiration which the Brazilian people feel for the U.S. people during these 2 days.

MDB Welcome Reported

PY010237Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Deputy Erasmo Martins Pedro was very much applauded when he greeted President Carter on behalf of the Chamber of Deputies, especially when he emphasized the faith and the confidence which the U.S. people have in the legislative branch, the "inalienable basic pillar of any democracy," and also when he quoted Rui Barbosa [Brazilian jurist, politician and writer, 1849-1923] by saying that "congress is a large lung through which national life receives oxygen freely."

The deputy was also heavily applauded when he stated that the U.S. people, in placing the struggle in favor of human rights at the highest level of moral duty, were giving sufficient reason to believe in the fairness of this campaign and were strengthening the conviction that "this campaign is in line with deep-rooted ethical demands of the conscience, and not in response to political requirements stemming from the international situation."

In his speech, Erasmo Martins Pedro stated that "the presence of the U.S. president in congress is beyond a mere protocol visit. It is the unequivocal proof of the faith and confidence the American people have in their President and in the legislative branch, the basic pillar of any democracy, and we are proud to recall Rui Barbosa's statement about the significance of this branch when he said that in any constitutional regime, congress is a large lung through which national life receives oxygen freely."

"It is in this house, through representatives whose legitimacy is given by their election through direct and secret vote, that the people speak to the nation to tell it how it should tackle its problems, to condemn its mistakes, to criticize injustice and abuse, to seek the supreme destiny of the fatherland. It is here that voices are raised, with the awareness which their owners have of their duty to all men made in the image of the Lord, to defend their inalienable rights which are acknowledged by the universally accepted concept of dignity, freedom and justice."

When speaking about the relations between the two countries, Martins Pedro said: "Through our age-old coexistence we have accumulated a significant background of harmony and understanding, a background which, besides stabilizing our relations, encourages both of us to do our best to develop and strengthen our bonds even further. This is the spirit which has traditionally presided over Brazilian-U.S. relations, a constructive spirit of friendship and mutual respect."

About President Carter, Martins Pedro stated: "Even though the entire world is aware of your origin, your ideas, your struggles, and your personal life, it is my honor, as is customary on occasions like this, to praise your personality."

"I must not, nor do I want to, break the rule, but I want to follow it by repeating your own words when you described yourself with the moving simplicity of the humble man touched by divine grace:

"I am a southerner and an American, a farmer and an engineer, a father and a husband, a politician and a former governor, a planner, a nuclear physicist, a navy officer, a boatman, and, among other things I am an admirer of Bob Dylan's songs and Dylan Thomas' poetry."

"I wish to emphasize the one statement from which, Mr President, stems your entire way of being: 'I am a Christian.'"

"Unfortunately this is a confession which many statesmen do not make because they lack the courage of admitting before the world their faith in Christ, forgetting the truth which the apostle Paul wrote in his second epistle to Timothy: For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and prudence."

"It is imbued with this courage, with this spirit that Your Excellency, inspired by the Holy Scriptures, has laid the course of your actions as the leader of the greatest democracy of the world, when you stated in your inaugural address:

"I have here before me the Bible which has been used for the swearing in of our first president in 1789, and I have just sworn on the Bible which my mother gave me some years ago, a Bible which is opened to the timeless warning of the ancient prophet Micah: You have told man what is good, and what the Lord requires from you: only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."

"This is the reason, Mr President, for your devotion to your fellow man, to justice, to the cause of freedom and democracy, this is the devotion which drives Your Excellency to promote respect for human rights throughout the entire world. This same devotion is what has driven Your Excellency to tackle the task of pulling your own country together after the setbacks which it has experienced in the last decade."

Martins Pedro stated: "By placing its struggle in favor of human rights at the highest level of moral duty, the U.S. people have given us enough reasons to believe in the fairness of their campaign and have strengthened our conviction that this campaign is in line with deep-rooted ethical demands of conscience, and not in response to political requirements stemming from the international situation."

"As Brazilians we admire the humility, the purity and the fearlessness with which Your Excellency seeks to assure respect for human rights, an undertaking which has, no doubt, a universal nature, because the violations of these rights affect each and every person regardless of their whereabouts. This appeal made by Your Excellency to the conscience of governments has its *raison d'être* and deserves our entire support. We do not believe that this appeal is harmful to the sovereignty of any nation."

"Your Excellency has clearly shown that no nation can be viewed as perfect. In every one of them the question of respect for human rights is bound to crop up. We are, therefore, facing a problem which affects all of humanity, and can therefore, be dealt with positively only through international cooperation respecting the sovereignty of every country."

"We are convinced that the main duty of every state is to guarantee to all citizens their freedom and their physical integrity. However, the state must also provide them with conditions which will free them from fear, hunger, ignorance, and disease; conditions, in sum, which will allow them to live with dignity and to freely express their opinions."

"In the meantime, the achievement of this goal depends on the understanding of the so-called developed countries. They have a moral and unavoidable duty: to eradicate the obstacles to development of the other peoples.

"It is their duty to establish international conditions favorable to the trade and development of developing countries because a stronger economic infrastructure and a wealthier society are bound to facilitate overall respect for the basic rights of the human being."

Erasmus Martins Pedro added that "here in Brazil we are all committed to the effort of developing the nation. We want to improve our democratic system and we also want to reorganize our socio-economic structures which no longer fulfill our needs. We are fully committed to freeing the country from the still prevailing economic and technological dependencies. For this, we want to count on the understanding and support of all governments, especially of the government of your country to which we have given, in times of distress, undeniable proof of our solidarity.

"I hope that Brazil and the United States will be able to repeat together what Your Excellency told to your people in your inaugural address: 'Let us learn together, let us rejoice together, let us work together, let us pray together, trusting that we will triumph together if we act rightly.'"

Joint Communique Published

PY010415Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 78 p 5 PY

[Joint press communique signed by Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel and U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Brasilia on 30 March]

[Text] The U.S. President and Mrs Jimmy Carter visited Brazil from 29 to 31 March 1978 as part of a series of visits to important countries. President Carter's retinue included Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Terence A. Todman, Policy Planning Staff Director W. Anthony Lake and Robert Pastor of the National Security Council.

The President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Mrs Ernesto Geisel met U.S. President and Mrs Jimmy Carter as official guests of the Brazilian government. President Geisel interpreted this visit as clear proof of the significance of the relations and the historical bonds which exist between the two nations.

During his stay in Brasilia, President and Mrs Carter visited His Excellency the President of the Supreme Federal Court and other members of this court. President Carter also visited the National Congress which met for a joint solemn session. President and Mrs Carter expressed their deep gratitude for this opportunity to meet with the Supreme Court and the National Congress.

The visit reflects the desire of the two presidents to increase mutual understanding and to broaden the extensive areas of agreement which exist between the two governments. The visit also represents the growing importance and complexity of the relations between the two countries and the need to reduce, as much as possible, the unavoidable differences in viewpoints stemming from this complexity.

The talks between the two presidents evolved in an atmosphere of frankness, cordiality and mutual respect. The two parties discussed recent international events, both at the regional and worldwide level, and exchanged viewpoints as to the policies and positions of their two governments. Aware of the responsibilities which their two countries have in the solution of important world problems, the two presidents emphasized the common interests and objectives of the two countries in the building of a just and peaceful international order. The two parties reasserted their firm support for the principles of the UN and OAS charters, and for the principles of sovereignty, equality and non-intervention in domestic affairs of other countries; for the abstention from the use of force in international relations; and for other principles of international law which apply to relations between the states. The two parties agreed on the need to persevere in efforts aimed at maintaining international peace, strengthening world security, stepping up cooperation between the states and resolving pending international issues in line with the peaceful means provided for in the UN charter.

Within the framework of this overall analysis, the two presidents stressed the significance of the United Nations and other international and regional bodies, for the solution of international issues and disputes, and agreed that their two governments must maintain and expand their cooperation in support of these mechanisms and their growing effectiveness. They also agreed to broaden yearly consultations between the two governments prior to the sessions of the UN General Assembly, discussing at these talks other negotiations and meetings held under the sponsorship of the United Nations, such as the Law of the Sea Conference, the UN conferences on science and technology, for development, and those dealing with technical cooperation between developing countries.

The two presidents exchanged ideas regarding the situation in the Middle East and deplored the violence recently unleashed in that area. They agreed that it is necessary and urgent to step up efforts aimed at reaching a just, overall and lasting peace, based on Resolutions 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council. They also stressed the importance of a withdrawal on all fronts, in line with Resolution 242, and of a solution for all aspects of the Palestine problem.

The two presidents emphasized their concern over the arms race and reasserted their firm support for the implementation of measures aimed at disarmament under strict and effective international control. In addition to this the two presidents expressed their common interest in the constructive participation of their two countries at the special session of the UN General Assembly for disarmament and reaffirmed their common will to see that this special session will lead to positive steps toward a reduction and a possible eradication of armament and a relaxation of international tensions.

Based on common traditions of respect for the law and their desire to improve the living conditions of their people, the presidents agreed that the progress of humanity will be gauged largely through the progress of the efforts which are being made to guarantee and protect the political, economic and social rights of all the peoples.

President Carter stressed the basic commitment of his country to the promotion of human rights and democratic freedoms as the pillars of the construction of a more just world, and stated that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the OAS Charter are the guidelines for international action in this field.

In this regard President Geisel recalled that international cooperation for the strengthening of human rights in all aspects is one of the noblest missions of the United Nations. He stressed the concern of the Brazilian Government over respect of human rights and indicated the essential role played by economic, social and political development in the achievement of goals in this area.

President Carter explained the overall scope of the U.S. nonproliferation policy and the way this policy was being practically implemented within the United States, and he outlined current efforts of his administration to avoid both horizontal and vertical proliferation at a universal level. He emphasized that the U.S. policy is aimed at curbing the spreading of nuclear weapons and at stimulating, at the same time, international cooperation in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses. President Geisel states that Brazil was equally concerned with the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this regard he stressed that Brazil strongly supports international efforts aimed at disarmament and that Brazil's nuclear program has strictly peaceful objectives and that it has been organized to take care of the country's energy needs, and he added that Brazil supports the implementation of international and non-discriminatory safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The two presidents examined the present situation and prospects of the world's economy. They analyzed the close relationship between the behavior of the U.S. economy and the stability of world growth, as well as the dynamic presence of Brazil in the international economic system. They emphasized the importance of industrialized nations as a whole, adopting policies to assure the resumption of a more rapid world economic growth, which would also require appropriate policies in developing nations to maintain a favorable performance in their economies. They welcomed the OPEC decision made in December in Caracas, which had the effect of maintaining the present level of oil prices.

President Carter placed emphasis on his administration's commitment to greater trade liberalization. President Geisel emphasized the importance of growth of exports for Brazilian development. With respect to this, the two presidents reasserted their decision to work toward a more just and open world trade system, to combat protectionism and to cooperate for the success of multilateral trade negotiations. The two presidents agreed that the greatest contributions to that field should be made by developed nations. President Carter reaffirmed the United States' zeal to negotiate, whenever possible and appropriate, special and more favorable treatment for developing nations. He also considered it desirable that developing countries also contribute toward trade liberalization, along with other countries. The two presidents agreed on the importance of arriving at an agreement concerning subsidy and exports codes, damages compensation, safeguards, and other trade policy mechanisms. They also agreed on the need for broad consultations, as the Geneva negotiations approach their final phase. The two presidents agreed that the fifth session of the Brazil-U.S. Trade Subcommittee would be held in May in Brasilia. The principal goal of that session will be to jointly examine existing substantive issues in the present phase of multilateral trade negotiations.

The two presidents firmly endorsed the very important role of international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. In this respect, they examined the various measures adopted last year and agreed on the importance which those institutions have on high-level financial resources. The two presidents placed emphasis on the importance of contributions from developed and developing countries to those institutions, and also satisfactorily noted the growing efforts of developing nations themselves to strengthen joint cooperation for their development. They expressed their satisfaction with efforts toward establishing an economic cooperation group in the Caribbean.

The two presidents agreed on the importance of stabilizing the prices of basic goods at just levels for producers and consumers, and on the role which appropriate financial mechanisms could play in relation to agreements for the stabilization of primary goods prices.

The two presidents reaffirmed that they would continue to support existing closely linked working relationship between the economic and financial authorities of both countries.

The two presidents discussed their shared concern for reducing dependence on oil imports and examined their respective countries' energy research and development programs. They agreed to establish a cooperation program which would place emphasis on the field of advanced technology in both countries, thus assuring a reciprocal flow of benefits in the mining, processing and conversion of mineral coal; in the production of alcohol from sugar and other agricultural products; and in the management of energy used in industry and transportation. That decision will be implemented through the meeting of technicians designed to draw up specific cooperation programs and examine the possibility of their joint financing.

The two presidents also examined the world agricultural situation and agreed that Brazil and the United States of America, as the world's principal exporters of agricultural products, could greatly contribute toward lessening world problems in this field. They decided to establish an agricultural subcommittee under the terms of the memorandum of understanding dated 21 February 1976. The subcommittee will discuss problems of joint interest and will hold its first meeting in the near future.

The two presidents also noted that their shared experience derived from business, professional, cultural and educational exchange is a valuable basis for a long-lasting friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries. The two presidents specifically noted last year's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States of America and Brazil, in which university professors from a wide range of fields participated.

The two presidents stressed the shared objectives of their peoples in favor of a new era of peace and progress, which would contribute toward more just economic relations between the north and south, which would promote greater economic security for all nations, which would assure a better quality of life for all peoples, which would encourage a more equitable distribution of benefits from growth, and which would encourage a more rapid national development.

The two presidents agreed on the importance of frequent consultations and close cooperation between the two governments.

They agreed that the mechanism and procedures for consultations established in the memorandum of understanding, dated 21 February 1976, should continue to be used and have thus instructed their respective foreign ministers. The two presidents expressed their intention to continue maintaining frequent personal communication in order to permit their direct and immediate intervention in matters of special interest for both countries.

The two presidents expressed their great personal satisfaction at the results of their talks--conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect--a very useful, extensive and mutually favorable exchange of opinions on a broad range of multilateral and bilateral issues, with full understanding of each other's point of view.

At the end of their visit, President and Mrs Carter thanked President and Mrs Geisel for the cordial hospitality offered them by the Brazilian people and Government.

Nuclear Differences Still Exist

PY011901Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 31 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Minister Azeredo da Silveira considered Jimmy Carter's visit to Brasilia "very productive," even though he did admit that Brazil and the United States still disagree on the nuclear issue. The foreign minister made these remarks at Brasilia's airport after the U.S. President left for Rio. The Brazilian foreign minister indicated that the tone of the joint communique would show the results of the visit.

After saying farewell to President Carter at the door of the vehicle which would take Carter to the plane, Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira did not hide his satisfaction over the results of the visit. "Wait for the joint communique," he told the journalists, "and watch closely the tone which prevails through it."

Officials Differ on Rights Talks

PY011940Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Planalto Palace and Itamaraty spokesmen differed with reference to a basic point in their statements to the press--given separately and at different times--about the meeting which Presidents Geisel and Carter held yesterday; the human rights issue. One of them stated that this issue was discussed at the talks, while the other one said it was not.

According to Planalto Palace spokesman Col Toledo Camargo, Geisel and Carter spoke about human rights, a remark which is further confirmed by the statement of positions of the two presidents in the "joint press communique" released this afternoon and which states the following:

"President Carter stressed the basic commitment of his country to the promotion of human rights and democratic freedoms as the pillars of the construction of a more just world, and stated that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the OAS Charter are the guidelines for international action in this field. In this regard President Geisel recalled that international cooperation for the strengthening of human rights in all aspects is one of the noblest missions of the United Nations. He stressed the concern of the Brazilian Government over respect for human rights and indicated the essential role played by economic, social and political development in the achievement of goals in this area."

However, according to Itamaraty spokesman Luiz Felipe Lampreia, the human rights issue "was not discussed at the talks" of the two presidents. As to the reference which the joint press communique makes of this matter, Itamaraty's spokesmen stated that by itself, the fact that it was mentioned in the communique, does not mean that the two presidents have discussed the matter."

GEISEL SPEECH MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

PYD11354Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Speech delivered today by President Ernesto Geisel during luncheon given at Aeronautics Club to commemorate 14th anniversary of 1964 revolution]

[Text] Gentlemen: With the attendance of prominent civilian members of the three branches of government and of the ruling party's leadership, of presidents of workers and businessmen's confederations and of high-ranking military officers of the armed forces, in this friendly and solidary company we are today commemorating another anniversary of our revolution.

I wish to thank the air minister for his initiative in organizing this (?commemorative luncheon), and for his generous, encouraging words.

On this occasion, I am happy to address not only those of you who are here but also every Brazilian who is now listening to me, especially the many comrades, both military and civilian, who shared our responsibility in carrying out the memorable actions of March 1964. Fourteen years have elapsed. It is worth looking back to that past which has become (?blurry) in our memory, as a result of the deceitful actions of those who do not hesitate today to appear as true, even progressive democrats, but who yesterday openly sought to establish in the country a personal or group dictatorship under the guise of a unionist republic, which would have ended up by being neither a republic nor unionist. They availed themselves of deceit, damoguary, corruption and even rude violence to achieve their purpose. Only those who were able to see the true situation remember those long periods of insecurity, of concern and fear over the future of the fatherland. It was the eve of national chaos, a sign of the chaos which was already threatening the military sector, which had been heavily shaken by the infiltration of active, unscrupulous leftists. Led by the armed forces, men and women mobilized in cities and rural areas to defend the institutions and to put an end to the subversion which was being directed from high government sectors.

The heavy task of reconstruction and development was then undertaken upon the restoration of public order. Progress was then resumed in every sector of national life, after a long period of stagnation. Never before had there been so much to be done. The fight on subversion has been difficult because it always comes back even under the form of kidnappings and guerrilla actions, or corruption, which proved to be one of its most useful instruments.

The following major challenges were decisively and successfully met by the revolutionary governments: the unending struggle to promote the country's socioeconomic development and political advancement, the great effort toward meeting the urgent goal of improving the standard of living of the Brazilian people--with a high growth rate--and the accelerated building of a great nation so that Brazil could hold the position to which it is entitled in the international context as an emerging power.

It is not proper to review here the major achievements of the revolution. They have time and again been mentioned in official documents and reports. Our people, who have always followed with interest our national evolution, are also well aware of these achievements. No one could deny that much progress has been achieved during these years of work and struggle in Brazil, a country which, as someone said, is in perspective in today's world.

The nation is today living in order and dedicated to the heavy task of building its future. Once irresponsible terrorism was brought under control and forced to look elsewhere--although some outbreaks of unrepentant, divisive subversive spirit still persist--the action of federal and state police organizations became more effective. Thus the armed forces can now hinge their action on their specific professional duties. Although they will always remain alert and united in case of major subversive developments, the armed forces will no longer have to endure the permanent involvement in security operations in the various sectors of the national territory.

While some remarkable progress has been made, some drawbacks have also been experienced throughout this process, especially as a result of specific domestic problems which were becoming increasingly interdependent on our foreign relations.

This is why we had major negative impacts on our political development. Furthermore, we also faced difficulties which had harmful consequences on our economy, primarily on our balance of payments and inflation, and which had an overall negative impact on the country. These problems, however, were satisfactorily controlled.

We are now taking a major step toward achieving development so as to meet the original commitment of the revolution. I discussed this issue thoroughly and frankly in the speech I delivered on 1 December 1977 to national and state ARENA leaders. I would like to quote here the following passages of that speech: We are now going through a period of evident political development. There are diversified prospects which become broader as a result of (?phenomena) differing both in nature and significance. The thing is that this Brazil of late 1977 is a different Brazil as a result of the achievements made by the revolution and of the promising national prospects, which yield hopes and stimulate imagination.

There is no doubt today as to the aspirations of many, especially of those highly prominent sectors of the nation, who advocate the institutionalization of the democratic ideals which, 13 years ago, with undisputed popular support, inspired the 1964 movement.

Thus we are thinking of abolishing exceptional laws which had been necessary at certain stages of our revolutionary period but which the peaceful development of national life has made unnecessary. These laws can now be replaced with constitutional safeguards, which could guarantee the existence and the proper and orderly functioning of the democratic regime. It is thus sought to provide state security and social security with effective, expeditious instruments of defense, without restricting the liberties and the individual security of each citizen beyond the limits which are strictly necessary and just.

My government has always maintained a clear, expressed position on this issue from the overall viewpoint of governmental ethics. [end quote of speech]

These ideas are still valid. They truly reflect our strong determination and, God willing, we will successfully achieve them. We must, however, avoid any excess, any hastiness which could prove disastrous. We must also devote our efforts to creating truly democratic institutions which would be in keeping with our reality and not artificial copies of foreign models so that, instead of ostensibly perfect models--like those we had throughout our history--we could have true, effective institutions.

Let us protect ourselves from demagogic, hypocritical, irresponsible populism; from those who believe in the utopia of complete democracy; and from obsolete liberalism. Let us also protect ourselves from all radicals, both from the rightwing and the leftwing; and from all opportunists, who at one moment are to the left and soon to the right, always at extremes. Let us protect ourselves from those deceivers, those who are masters in distorting words to their own benefit, even to fulfill a passing pleasure of confusing or, sometimes, to cause intrigues.

In face of this (?nefarious action) carried out by the promoters of chaos and discord, we shall continue our great task of building the future Brazil, inspired by the very lofty ideals on which the 31 March 1964 revolution was based, with the support and solidarity of all good Brazilians, the essential permanent cooperation of our political party and the alert vigilance of the armed forces.

FIGUEIREDO'S PROMOTION TO FOUR-STAR GENERAL SIGNED

PY312045Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 1905 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Relay by reporter (Nogueira Saraiva) from Planalto Palace]

[Excerpt] Planalto Palace has just released the list of promotions in the army. The following major generals were promoted to four-star generals: Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, Antonio Carlos de Andrade Serpa and Walter Pires.

The following colonels were promoted to brigadier general: Jose Maria Toledo Camargo, presidential press secretary; Wilberto Lima, presidential special adviser; and Danilo Venturini, head of the SNI [National Intelligence Service] chief's cabinet.

In other decrees, President Geisel removed the recently promoted Brig Gen Jose Maria Toledo Camargo from his position as presidential press secretary, and appointed Col Rubem Carlos Ludwig, public relations adviser of Planalto Palace, to simultaneously perform the duties of presidential press adviser.

Would Enter Reserves

PY312201Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2105 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, chief of the National Intelligence Service [SNI], stated here today that if he is nominated as presidential candidate by the ARENA convention he will ask to be passed into the reserves. He made this statement on receiving congratulations for his promotion to four-star general from his aides from both the SNI and Planalto Palace.

Although his nomination as the government's candidate for the presidency is virtually certain, General Figueiredo stated that he will not speak of politics to the press until his nomination has been officially confirmed by the ARENA convention. He commented, however, on Senator Magalhaes Pinto's self-nomination saying: I think it is good to have someone challenging me [acho bom correr com gente no meu lado].

SOURCES REFUSE COMMENT ON BANZER REMARKS ON WAR

PY011923Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 1 Apr--Semiofficial sources today refused to comment on the recent statement of Bolivian President Hugo Banzer regarding a possible war with Chile to recover the sea outlet. Various queried sources indicated that for the present there will be no comment about the statement made today by the Bolivian president during a meeting with journalists in Cochabamba. The statement released in Santiago by news media reports surprised public opinion.

NAVAL CHIEF CLAIMS ARMED FORCES ARE PREPARED

PY311922Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1503 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Arica, Chile, 31 Mar--The chief of staff of the Chilean Navy asserted that the Chilean Armed Forces are in a better state of preparation for war than they were in 1879. Vice Adm Carlos Le May Delano made this remark to the correspondent the newspaper EL MERCURIO sent to this city, 2,050 km north of Santiago.

"The sailors, soldiers and pilots of the Chilean Armed Forces are better prepared for war than in 1879 and the spirit of 'La Araucana' [an epic poem] regarding the confidence, braveness and courage of the Chileans is being kept very high," asserted the admiral.

The high-ranking naval chief made a 4-hour visit to this border town after observing maneuvers of the navy aimed at thwarting the extracontinental threat against Chile. The maneuvers were also aimed at thwarting the landing of commando or guerrilla forces. Le May indicated that the exercises were "normal ones" and that they are part of a program carried out every year.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO BOLIVIAN BORDER DENIED

PY011351Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Text] An army spokesman has denied newspaper reports from La Paz that Chile is moving troops toward the Bolivian border. The spokesman said that Chile has not moved any soldiers as a result of the severance of diplomatic relations by Bolivia. He added that Chile has always had soldiers safeguarding the border within the framework of a plan of total defense.

DISCOUNT GRANTED TO BOLIVIAN IN-TRANSIT SHIPPING

PY010314Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0041 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar--The Chilean port enterprise will apply a 10-percent discount on the freight of goods in transit to Bolivia beginning tomorrow, it was reported in Santiago today. The step was taken on the basis of agreements reached on 17 March 1978 in Santiago by a transportation commission of the two countries, despite Bolivia's severing of diplomatic relations with Chile on the same day. On that occasion Bolivian cargo was exempted from a 10 percent surcharge which was collected for goods in transit to Bolivia.

Bolivia will transport its cargo through the Chilean ports of Antofagasta and Arica. The Chilean port enterprise also decided to exempt Bolivian exports from payment of storage fees on goods such as sugar, rice, minerals and others.

LETELIER WITNESS TOWNLEY QUESTIONED FOR SECOND DAY

PY311444Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] According to reports from sources at the military court and from his own lawyer, Manuel Acuna, U.S. citizen Michael Townley left the Defense Ministry on Wednesday after 10 hours of interrogation. The judge, who is under military jurisdiction--that is, under complete and strict military discipline--summoned him to return yesterday. He was then subjected to 5 more hours of interrogation. According to his lawyer, Townley was allowed to leave with complete freedom and with the same rights as any ordinary citizen. The lawyer declined to answer whether or not his client had attended a previous interrogation with Captain Fernandez. He said that was an issue included in the court summary, a secret document.

DELAY IN LETELIER HEARING SPARKS SPECULATIONS

PY010359Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2132 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 31 Mar--A new delay in the questioning of the two key witnesses in the murder case of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier has increased speculation of an intricate political-police intrigue. When everything seemed to indicate that U.S. citizen Michael Townley and Chilean Capt Armando Fernandez Larios would be called to testify, the U.S. legal representative in Chile announced that they would not testify. Chilean lawyer Alfredo Etcheberry stated at his office that the place and date for the questioning by Judge Juana Gonzalez would be established in the next few hours.

The case, which has shaken the Chilean public, has occasioned fewer reports in the local press today, after the government requested restraint and control in reporting.

The government again denied rumors of the possible implication of some official sector in the Letelier murder. Gen Gustavo Leigh, air force commander in chief, was the one to deny the rumors this time. General Leigh stated that it was slanderous to blame the crime on the government of the armed forces, and he added that if at any time the person responsible was found, he undoubtedly would be punished.

Meanwhile, U.S. federal attorney Eugene Propper, who arrived in Santiago on 29 March to be present at the questioning through lawyer Etcheberry, met again with the Chilean lawyer to discuss developments in the case.

Townley's lawyer said that his client is well protected because he has strong enemies. When asked who those enemies were, he answered that in international politics things are so intricate that one does not know from where the blow might come.

Etcheberry in turn stated that attorney Propper will not return to the United States until the step requested by the U.S. court has been completed.

EL MERCURIO DISLIKES U.S. ROLE IN LETELIER PROBE

PY011648Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 1 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Apr--The morning paper EL MERCURIO indirectly accused the U.S. Government today of interfering in Chilean politics through the activities of a federal attorney who is investigating former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier's death. The paper says that the presence in Chile of attorney Eugene Proper implies the danger that he may form his own record of the case, parallel to that of Chilean justice which is also investigating it, containing ideas or impressions gathered by him and not subject to any legal control as to their truth or correctness.

The paper added: "It is to be feared, however, that U.S. zeal in the investigation has even come to amount to a case of political interference which this country is not willing to put up with." The newspaper then stated that "the large mass of citizens who in fact invited the armed forces to take power in Chile and also the soldiers of this republic do not deserve the disdainful and suspicious treatment we are enduring." EL MERCURIO concluded by saying that the Americans who now regret their mistaken anticommunist interventions in various parts of the world soon will also regret their present measures of intervention in Chile.

CURFEW LIFTED IN SANTIAGO AFTER 4 1/2 YEARS

PY010331Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2301 GMT 31 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 31 Mar--It was reported here today that the Santiago military authority today lifted the curfew for the Chilean capital after 4 and 1/2 years of enforcement. The resolution is included in Communique No 119 of the Metropolitan Region Emergency Zone Command and was signed by Gen Enrique Morel.

According to the resolution, people will be allowed to move freely in the capital all night, but between 0200 local time (0400 GMT) and 0530, the traffic of motor vehicles, both private and public, will be strictly prohibited. According to the communique, the people of Santiago can move around on bicycles or animal-driven vehicles such as carriages and the like. It was also established that movies, night clubs, restaurants and other night public businesses must close at 0100 local time. According to an official source, the prohibition of motor vehicle circulation is aimed at saving gasoline.

The resolution will also include three provinces close to Santiago, with the exception of the ports of Valparaiso and San Antonio. Similar decisions were also made 2 days ago by the military authorities of the southern provinces of Llanquihue, Chiloe and Magallanes.

BRIEFS

PLANES DONATED TO URUGUAY--The Chilean Air Force [FACH] today donated two training planes to the Uruguayan Air Force during a ceremony held at the aviation school. This ceremony is part of the many ceremonies being carried out to commemorate the FACH anniversary. High-ranking air force officers and the Uruguayan ambassador presided over this ceremony. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 78 FY]

EL TIEMPO ON EXCLUSION OF COLOMBIA FROM CARTER TOUR

PA022333Y Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Mar 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Mr Carter's Absence"]

[Text] When the present President of the United States was inaugurated, he announced an expansion of relations with Latin America along with his somewhat utopian but still very noble intention of restoring respect for human rights. In line with this plan, he has arrived on Latin American territory for the first time as the guest of Venezuela, Brazil and Panama [as published]. We had hoped that before President Lopez' administration came to an end Colombia would be chosen as one of the countries in the hemisphere from which the U.S. President would extend his people's cordial message, not only to the Colombian nation but to all the nations of the continent.

The reasons are not easy to understand. Under President Lopez Michelsen, Colombia has carried out a respectable and praiseworthy effort in the international sphere. No one doubts that the present president played a very important part in the culmination of the agreement reached between Carter and Torrijos rather than between the United States and Panama. Colombia, through its chief of state, served as a worthy mediator. President Lopez was at hand to smooth over differences and to seek the necessary rapprochement when the situation started to become critical. The Bogota meeting therefore acquired historical importance in the momentous agreement which will place the Panama Canal under the control of its natural owners. It is not only in this specific case that our country has shown respect to the great northern democracy. The postulates defended by President Carter, which have a deep democratic and humanistic meaning, are longstanding pillars of Colombian democracy. We form, in the honorable company of a few sister countries, the vanguard of a system which elects a government of the type so aptly described by Lincoln as being "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Colombia's friendship toward the United States of America shines with its own light on a continent in which the U.S. presence is not always received with cordiality and respect. There is more to bind and less to separate the two countries every day. Therefore, we ask with curiosity why Colombia was not among the countries chosen by the U.S. President for his first trip to South America. It is not that such visits basically change the future or the present status of our affairs, whether these relations are good or bad, but such visits do tend to have far-reaching effects, particularly now when sometimes smelly propaganda is discrediting Colombia's good name. Carter and his party could have personally probed the situation regarding the struggle against drug trafficking, and we are sure that a frank conversation between two presidents is much more useful than protocolary exchanges between moving or permanent ambassadors.

In the present century, we have had the pleasure of receiving two U.S. presidents--Roosevelt and Kennedy--both of whom were effective advocates of a change in policy toward the neighbors to the south. There was also the amiable and pleasant tour by Mrs Carter, which was more a symbol of friendly politics than an exchange between the two states. It is well known that presidential invitations involve complicated procedures on the part of the foreign ministries. At times the visitor suggests the invitation; at other times it is promoted by the home government. We do not know the reason--because the mysterious secrecy which surrounds relations between countries is very hard to penetrate--for the exclusion of Colombia from this tour, an exclusion which, we must confess, wounds our civic pride.

Was it the express desire of President Lopez not to invite his counterpart, or did Carter perhaps deliberately seek this exclusion? One can also ask whether the oil question, of such prominence today, prevailed over giving a protocolary and noble distinction to the Colombians. It would have cost nothing--and that is why we cannot understand [the failure to make] what we believe would have been a gratifying tribute to our country--the president of the most important nation in the world to have made a brief, symbolic stopover in Colombian territory, where he is truly admired and respected.

OFFICIALS TERM U.S. DRUG TRAFFIC REPORT 'DISRESPECTFUL'

PA022301Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1935 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[By Guillermo Tribin Piedrahita]

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr--Colombian authorities today termed "disrespectful" a U.S. report on drug traffic, noting that corruption originates in the United States.

Guillermo Leon Linares, director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), the Colombian secret police, strongly accused U.S. senators and other authorities of "interceding on behalf of U.S. drug traffickers arrested in Colombia."

Last night, at the Apiay military base, Colombian Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia said that the United States is corrupting the Latin American countries through drug trafficking because the largest consumer market exists in that country.

A report by the U.S. Comptroller General's office released in Washington called the Colombian authorities "corrupt" and said this country is the major supplier of marihuana and cocaine to the United States.

"It is U.S. drug users and financiers who are to blame for the drug boom in the United States," the DAS director said. Leon Linares recalled the intercession of U.S. senators and other authorities last year when an alleged "hospital" plane which was loaded with drugs and marihuana was detained in Santa Marta on the northern Colombian coast. Even though he did not disclose the names of the U.S. legislators who have interceded on behalf of U.S. drug traffickers arrested in Colombia, the official said that "the use of drugs is fostered" from over there.

"The pilots, the nurses, the people who carry the money, the planes and often those who rescue the ships are also American. On the other hand, we are the victims of the violation of our sovereignty by foreign aircraft which enter our airspace," the DAS director noted.

He remarked that Colombian officials who "have let themselves become corrupted with the lure of the money of the U.S. mafias have been severely punished." He said that therefore the U.S. agency's report is both disrespectful and unfair when it accuses Colombian authorities as a whole of abetting the traffic in marihuana and cocaine.

The official said that a U.S. hospital plane landed without a permit at the Santa Marta airport with the intention of taking Bruce Adams, a U.S. drug trafficker who had suffered burns when a plane loaded with cocaine crashed in La Alta Guajira, out of the country. According to the denunciation made by Leon Linares, "the governors of several U.S. states" interceded with the Colombian Government on behalf of the drug trafficker.

According to police reports, 85 percent of the drug traffickers arrested in Colombia in the last 3 years have been Americans.

When we refuted the U.S. Comptroller General's report, the DAS director stated that "the pillars of the drug trade are the money and the pressure to consume," which originate in the United States. He said that therefore it is absurd "to say that Colombia is guilty of this," noting that, as opposed to the United States, "here we do not have the problem of drug abuse, and we do not have the economic means to be regarded as involved in this criminal business."

Defense Minister Varon Valencia said last night that marihuana will disappear in Colombia as soon as there is no one to consume it.

According to the U.S. state agency's report, illegal drug trafficking is a business estimated to be worth nearly \$6 billion a year.

The DAS director said that "it should be remembered in the United States that Colombia is simply a country of transit due to our geographical location, which forcibly places us along the route for that business." He said that cocaine "is produced in other countries in the south of the continent, and we do not produce the raw materials to manufacture it."

Minister Discusses U.S. Criticism

PA011435Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 PA

[Interview with Acting Justice Minister Manuel Gaona Cruz broadcast over the Caracol Network radio stations on 25 March]

[Excerpt] [Question] Minister, a campaign has been launched from the United States, apparently to discredit Colombia. Colombia is being accused of being solely responsible for drug traffic. The campaign has even linked the Grancolombiana merchant fleet in the drug trade. Do you not think the United States also has a role in this since it could stop the entry of drugs?

[Answer] There have been many press articles this week complaining about the weakness of the Colombian Government. There have even been some writers who suggest that the Colombian Government tolerates the drug traffic and is ineffective in combating it.

In the first place, the fight against the trafficking, processing, cultivation and consumption of narcotics is a joint effort of the Colombian and U.S. governments. It is a campaign that is carried out with mutual economic aid and above all with coordinated efforts and actions. The failures cannot be blamed solely on one party.

If one bears in mind that the most serious problem regarding drug trafficking and consumption is the latter and that the drugs are targeted for the U.S. consumer, then perhaps the anger directed by some news media against the Colombian Government might be justified, but not because we are tolerant and ineffective. Just as we cannot tell the United States that it is tolerant and ineffective because it has been unable to eradicate consumption despite its economic power and administrative and governmental control, in that same manner we have been unable to reach all of the goals.

That does not mean we do not have the desire or that the government is not determined to fight; it is that the scourge is uncontainable. The struggle will become increasingly more difficult as the results of this joint effort slowly become tangible.

LOPEZ MICHELSEN MEETS LABOR LEADERS, RECEIVES DEMANDS

PA021500Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Mar 78 pp 1-A, 8-A PA

[Article by Jose Yepes Lema]

[Excerpts] With Alejandro Obregon's "El Condor" as the backdrop, representatives of the four labor unions stood to welcome President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen when he arrived, 42 minutes late, to preside over the first meeting in the country's history between the chief of state and confederations of all ideological persuasions.

The following persons attended the meeting: Finance Minister Alfonso Palacio Rudas; Labor Minister Oscar Montoya; Minister of Development Diego Moreno; Civil Service Director Saturia Esguerra Portocarrero; Manuel Felipe Hurtado, president of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CTC); Pastor Perez, president of the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CSTC); Hernando Rodriguez, adviser to the president of the Union of Workers of Colombia (UTC); Gustavo Osorio, second vice president of the CSTC; Apecides Alvarez Fernandez, secretary of the CTC; Tulio Emilio Cuevas Romero, president of the UTC; Victor Bahena Lopez, president of the General Labor Confederation (CGT); Teodulo Cabrera, representative of the UTC; Miguel Antonio Caro, vice president of the CSTC; Pablo Emilio Pinzon and Carlos Ancizar Rico, CGT secretary and president, respectively.

At the end of the meeting all of the labor leaders were optimistic about its results and there were many identical comments, even though the leaders spoke to the press in different places outside the palace.

They all agreed that the president was receptive and that he has promised to listen to them and to reach specific decisions on Tuesday at 1100, when they will meet again to discuss the joint demands presented by the labor unions, which include such "controversial" matters as an across-the-board wage increase, implementation of laws 26 and 27 on collective bargaining and labor freedom--which would practically eliminate the Labor Ministry--and the lifting of the state of siege.

According to Victor Bahena Lopez, the government specifically proposed the establishment of a commission made up of labor representatives and members of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate to draft the enabling legislation for those laws.

(This was a "point" for the government because the leaders conceded that, as the president has been maintaining, there is no enabling legislation and that, although the laws exist, they have not been applied because of the lack of such legislation.)

"It is a very positive meeting, carried out with absolute cordiality," Victor Bahena Lopez said. "We explained to the president in total frankness all the problems faced by the working class at this time and the basis for the demands presented last year... that is, a number of problems were studied in general. The chief of state was receptive and very cordial. It was a very frank but very calm talk. Solutions to some of the conflicts are already perceptible, such as the application of laws 26 and 27 after a commission made up of representatives of the government, the workers and the congress drafts the corresponding legislation."

Bahena Lopez said that on Tuesday they will continue the discussion of all the requests, including the wage increases "and existing problems, such as the dismissal of workers by the Labor Ministry."

He added: "A thaw practically began today, because we studied the means by which we can initiate specific talks on Tuesday, when we will go into details."

The labor leaders yesterday presented a new list of demands [introito], single spaced on three pages, which covered the above-mentioned points as well as new requests. They asked the president to give a specific answer to each of the following points:

Solutions to the points listed in the petition presented in September.

Explanation of the position with regard to a 50 percent wage increase.

Representation of labor unions on the boards of the Social Security Institute and decentralized institutes or state organizations in which decisions are made regarding social and economic matters, in order to supervise the operation of those institutions.

Representation of all of the labor unions at conferences of the International Labor Organization.

Approval of a law establishing parity [la paridad] between employers and workers on the board of directors of the family compensation fund, regarding which a bill has already been presented to the Chamber of Representatives, where it is being studied by the Seventh Committee.

Arrangements for mayors to grant sites to the labor unions for 1 May celebrations.

Reorganization of the Labor Ministry in order to make it a true guarantor of labor rights.

Revocation of Decree No 2004 and other provisions which curtail the freedoms and rights of workers.

Revocation of Decree No 2676 of 1971 which authorized the operation of the misnamed placement agencies that exploit the unemployed.

Solution of existing labor conflicts.

Exploitation of the special sessions of congress to legislate on those matters in which the executive has legal authority to resolve all the requests contained in the memorandums [as published].

GENERAL VALENCIA TOVAR PROCLAIMS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

PA012131Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Emphasizing his silent campaign, which lacks the material resources to carry on at the level of the political forces which have everything in their favor, Gen Alvaro Valencia Tovar today denied the slanderous attacks of the former director of the National Renovation Movement, Omar Botero Paramo. Valencia Tovar said that Botero Paramo was a traitor and a coward, who by nature rejects the clear horizons of an honest and clean life.

On the gala occasion of proclaiming his presidential candidacy, Gen Alvaro Valencia Tovar made a brief 9-page speech [as heard] outlining his supraparty movement.

MINISTER HAILS SIGNING OF TREATY WITH U.S.

PA030231Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Mar 78 p D-9 PA

[Text] Maiquetia, 29 Mar--For Venezuela, the specific result of the meeting between President Perez and President Carter was mainly the signing of the treaty on the delimitation of the marine and submarine areas between our country and the United States, and I do not think one could talk about results that are more specific than this, Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi stated today.

Minister Consalvi made this statement at Maiquetia Airport as he was getting ready to board, along with his wife, the plane that would take him to Caracas after attending a farewell ceremony for President Jimmy Carter at the end of Carter's 22-hour visit to Venezuela.

The said treaty, he noted, is certainly very important since it is the first treaty to be signed on this matter. For Venezuela, it is truly extraordinary that the sea borders, the exclusive economic zone of Venezuela which borders on the exclusive economic zone of the United States, have been clearly delimited.

The foreign minister went on to say that a memorandum of understanding was also signed concerning cooperation in controlling the illegal narcotics trade in view of the well-known fact that there is a large flow of narcotics from certain Latin American countries to the United States which is a very serious problem for it and because we, as President Perez has said, are willing to offer every possible help to curb it.

PEREZ DISCUSSES MARITIME FACTS AT SAN CRISTOBAL EVENT

PA010012Y Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 0043 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at ceremony in San Cristobal, Tachira State, marking 417th founding anniversary of San Cristobal--live]

[Excerpts] I have no words to express my deep emotion at the honor bestowed on me by San Cristobal Municipality. My heart is full of gratitude and I accept this award of the golden emblem of San Cristobal as an encouragement to work still harder for Venezuela and each of its regions, cities and towns.

It was here in my Tachira where I waged my first struggles and where my social awareness became more defined so that I could place it at the service of my fellow citizens. From the presidency, I have fulfilled my promise when, here in San Cristobal and in my hometown of Rubio, I proposed my name as presidential candidate. I promised that whatever I did for my state would be exactly what I would be willing to do for each of the other Venezuelan regions.

This is what we have tried to do, sometimes with success and other times we have erred, as happens to everyone. We have given a new optimism to the province. Today, we feel joy when we travel through our country and find in each part important projects and an optimism, growth and self-confidence which is building a new country. This is the new Venezuela we all want and which during all our uneven history has always had standard bearers who have brought progress to our country. [words indistinct] Special and extraordinary event for Venezuela's future, God and fate placed me in a position where I could make decisions which are definitely changing our country's future. As a son of Tachira who deeply loves his land, tomorrow, in a meaningful gesture for the people of Tachira, the border state where I was born, I shall fly to our fraternal and cordial Antilles to establish new borders for Venezuela.

Tomorrow, on San Cristobal Day, I will preside over the ceremony in Curacao in which the foreign ministers of the Netherlands and Venezuela and the Government of the Netherlands Antilles will sign a treaty by which demarcation of the maritime areas between our country and the Netherlands Antilles will be established. This will place a large portion of the Caribbean Sea under Venezuela's patrimonial sovereignty. I, a man from a border state, feel fortunate to have been in a position to achieve these age-old aspirations of our country.

Likewise, together with President Carter, I presided over the ceremony yesterday for the signing of the first agreement that Venezuela has entered into concerning the establishment of its maritime borders. In this agreement, we extended the maritime boundary of our country from the Northern Aves Islands to a line further north which separates us from Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.

What Venezuela has achieved in these years, in these days of the month of March 1978--with the efforts and passions of Venezuelans--is very significant. On a just and equitable basis we have held discussions with our neighbors with whom we share common maritime borders and have reached agreements which all Venezuelans will view with pride throughout history and which will never be subject to criticism, resentment or frustrations, as has unfortunately happened in the past. Venezuelans are learning their lessons; we are maturing.

It seems almost impossible that during an electoral process my government has obtained a consensus of all political forces in the nation in order to sign these treaties. I hereby reassert without doubt and uncertainty that it is surely the first time that Venezuela has expressed itself united, without selfishness or vested interests, placing the nation above all other considerations.

In Curacao, Aruba or in Bonaire, I shall be thinking about Venezuela and my spirit will be here in San Cristobal, capital of my state, celebrating with all of you the great festival of San Cristobal. We shall also celebrate the signing of the treaties in which the Venezuelans of this generation are playing a role.

This ceremony fills me with satisfaction and happiness. I rejoice as a Venezuelan because I see how the country grows in all our hearts, how the country no longer treads the confusing paths of controversies without solutions or sterile confrontations. We have learned to unite above any secondary considerations whenever we believe that we must act to express a legitimate and noble feeling.

PEREZ LAUDS CARTER VISIT, MARITIME TREATY

PA020353Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0211 GMT 2 Apr 78 PA

[By Jose Puertas]

[Text] Willemstad, Curacao, 1 Apr (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez promised here today his country's support for speeding up the independence of the Netherlands Antilles. At the conclusion of his 2-day visit, Perez ruled out the possibility that Venezuela could take charge of the foreign defense of the Antilles which is currently the responsibility of the Netherlands, but he said that the Venezuelan people are willing to sign any agreement or treaty as long as it will contribute to the independence of the Netherlands Antilles. He said that in any case, Venezuela could never remain indifferent in the face of an armed conflict that threatened the Antilles and that it would resort to international organizations such as the United Nations or the OAS. Perez expressed hopes that the Netherlands Antilles would obtain their full independence very soon and become members of the United Nations and the OAS.

Venezuela and the Netherlands signed here yesterday a treaty delimiting the maritime borders between the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela which affects areas potentially rich in petroleum, particularly the narrow 30-mile area between the Island of Aruba and the coast of Falcon State in Venezuela. During a news conference this afternoon, Perez said that the treaty should be complemented by subsequent agreements, beginning with one of fishing. He offered his government's technical cooperation to begin exploration of the continental shelf of the Antilles for petroleum deposits if the Antillean Government decides to do so. He did not deny the possibility of the emergence of a joint Venezuelan-Antillean enterprise in the field of petroleum refining, noting that the installations of the two countries are "the greatest refining complex in the world." He stressed that there would have to be a majority of Antillean capital in any joint enterprise installed on the islands because "Venezuela's conduct anywhere in the Caribbean must be like Caesar's wife, not only honest but appearing to be so."

Perez disclosed that he had presented to U.S. President Jimmy Carter a plan to begin the study of a development project that involves all the countries of the Caribbean. That plan, he said, must be multilateral, not controlled by the United States, channeled through regional organizations such as the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) and have the active participation of all the Caribbean countries involved. He said that talks have begun with various governments of the region and that they seek to present a "model program" of regional development.

Perez said that the treaty signed yesterday with the Netherlands Antilles will not directly affect the negotiations between Venezuela and Colombia to delimit the marine and submarine areas off the peninsula of Guajira and the mouth of Lake Maracaibo. He said that those negotiations have different characteristics, although "in any case we feel strengthened by the signing of such a just and fair treaty with the Netherlands Antilles which is what we seek with our other neighbors." He insisted that Venezuela "does not seek advantages" in the negotiations with Colombia, adding that he will resolutely continue to undertake them "until the last day" of his administration.

Today, Perez visited the neighboring islands of Aruba and Bonaire and tonight decorated the members of the treaty negotiating committee before returning to Caracas at 2300 (0300 GMT).

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT SAYS NO BOLIVAR REVALUATION

PA012341Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1213 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 31 Mar (VENPRES)--Benito Raul Losada, president of the Venezuelan Central Bank, today said that the Venezuelan Government has at no time planned to revalue the country's currency. Commenting on a report from Washington which was published in a Caracas newspaper regarding an alleged revaluation of the bolivar, Losada said: "I am completely unaware of that report. However, in view of the parity maintained by the country, the report makes no sense." "The statements I made yesterday," he added, "regarding the parity of the bolivar are perfectly clear. The Venezuelan Government has the firm policy of maintaining that parity with the dollar." Regarding the Venezuelan exchange situation, the Central Bank president said it remains the same. He described it as the most advisable course for the country. Yesterday, Losada said: "The international monetary situation is not too clear. It continues very confusing and somewhat uncertain for key currencies. But in any case, the bolivar's parity is firmly maintained, backed by international reserves of more than \$1 billion."

TORRIJOS, NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS DISCUSS NATIONAL SITUATION

PA010230Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian Chief of Government and National Guard Commander in Chief Gen Omar Torrijos met with the General Staff, the military zones chiefs and the chiefs of several National Guard combat units at the Tinajita military post and from there left for Pedregal on a 15-km military administrative march [marcha administrativa militar] which ended at air force installations at Tocumen airport.

Along the march route a large number of people greeted the participants. During the march, General Torrijos, as well as Col Garcia Ramirez, second in command, members of the general staff and the rest of the officers exchanged opinions on various matters and evaluated the situation of the country, which awaits ratification of the new canal treaties by the U.S. Congress.

Col Garcia Ramirez noted the importance of the equality existing among the National Guard officers and the high command. During the meeting, recently commissioned officers held cordial talks with General Staff members who later met separately, apparently to discuss the future of the canal treaties.

This meeting was held behind closed doors at the air force installations at Tocumen airport. Nothing has been revealed publicly about the subjects discussed or agreements reached. So far, no authorized spokesman has made any comment.

TORRIJOS ADDRESSES JOURNALISTS ON CANAL TREATIES, ELECTIONS

PA020340Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera during opening of Fifth National Journalists Congress in Santiago, Veraguas Province, on 1 April--recorded]

[Text] Executive board members of the National Union of Panamanian Journalists, Monsignor Nunez [as heard], all comrades: I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity during the national press meeting in Veraguas to make certain pronouncements which directly affect the course of the domestic and political life of the country. However, I first want to commend you on the organization, the hours of work that I know went into organizing a congress such as this one and for the great many truths that have been uttered here, truths which I know and which I will summarize by recalling a single incident.

When Dr Escobar Bethancourt spoke about the role of youth guide played by Manuel Celestino Gonzalez, I could remember that during my early years as first lieutenant and second lieutenant in the National Guard, Manuel Celestino Gonzalez used to visit the prison house regularly. From the place where we picked him up and took him to his almost regular residence, which was the model prison--the regular residence of all those whose views were opposed to the system--along that route, whether as sermonizing or advice or plain conversation, everything he said was true. Everything he said was true, and that is how one came to realize that the mission of the armed forces could not continue to be the persecution of anybody for his ideas or because his way of thinking asked for changes in the status quo.

We are almost 75 years from the day of our independence. The country's social calendar is 22 years away from the 21st century.

I mention these dates because it is necessary for us to understand that whatever we do now or fail to do is directly related to the way in which the future generations will greet the dawn of the 21st century.

This year, to speak even more specifically, this year, 1978, rife with emotions, triumphs, unpleasantness and victories, each Panamanian has to think over and become convinced that his views on the treaty should be responsible and well thought out, so that his final decision will be a contribution, will contribute to the national life a view that was well thought out in his own conscience since the government will not express any views or make final decisions or condemn or applaud what is going on right now until they return to us the treaty that we forwarded. Then, within an overall framework, we will examine what the people approved during the plebiscite and how the U.S. Senate interpreted the views that the people approved in the treaties that were submitted for discussion and approval during the plebiscite.

After that, in a wide-reaching and far-ranging way, using all means of communication, we, the government, will consult the views of this people, and within the framework of those views we will decide on the answers and the way to respond to what the United States has sent back.

This is the time when all of us, including myself, must make great efforts not to feel, feel and feel but to think, think and think and not fall into the unsound attitude of considering the returned treaty to be bad if it affects the interests of the group that it represents even if it is good for the country or the opposing view--bad for the country but good for the stability or survival of the government.

In this respect I can give full assurances to the people through all the newsmen present here that if the treaty harms the interests of the country it has to be bad for the interests of the government. This is not an observation that I have made by myself. I made it after consulting with the ranking military commands and after observing that my daily promenades [patrullaje], daily conversations and the daily dialog begun almost 10 years ago have made me realize that if the permanence in power of General Torrijos and his government team depended on selling out the homeland, selling out its dignity, selling out the dignity of those who have not even been born yet, then we would not stay in power a single minute after such a sell-out plan or idea came to light. I say this because back in 1969 and 1970, when we had not even formed a government team and when many of our plans and desires were mere ideas and not programs as they are now, we were threatened along with other guard officers who held views similar to those of the people who maintain the enclave. We were threatened that if we did not carry out what the government that we had just overthrown had agreed upon in the sense of ratifying the treaties as soon as possible, the stability of the government would be jeopardized.

That was the time when at the International Hotel--and I think in the presence of Dr Romulo Betancourt [as heard] and others--I said that if in order to stay in power I has to betray my country, I would rather leave right away. And I say this because it has been my consistent, consistent, consistent way of thinking, and when a man is consistent in his way of thinking no fear can be harbored that he will change his conceptual, intimate, worthy truth overnight for a truth based on convenience.

I attach great importance, almost historic importance to these elections, the electoral process that has already started and whose initial stages are already being carried out, because this event coincides with the greatest international event that our country has experienced, the ratification or refusal to ratify [the treaties] and because this event comes at a time when history sees all the countries that support the Panamanian cause.

All countries without exception--not one has failed to voice its solidarity so far--have their eyes set on the domestic and political behavior of the government and people of Panama.

I understand that every era, every year, every political year, every stage has its development plan and its political leadership plan. I understand that every era is marked by a certain attitude, and I think it is high time to say that the government is willing to assume an attitude, to assume the initiative of an attitude of realignment of the political structures. In this sense, the executive branch has not adopted and does not plan to adopt an unyielding, sectarian attitude because unyielding and sectarian attitudes destabilize the government and could perhaps lead to the reappearance of the elements of social unrest which compelled the National Guard to become involved in national life. What we do will be done with the conviction that we should make an effort to end the causes of discontent that permanently placed the population--the students, the workers, the Panamanians [as heard]--in opposition to the public forces, and we would not even want to remember those things of the past. That is why we cannot be unyielding, precisely because we were used almost in a (?sports-like) fashion to correct the intransigent attitudes of other governments.

If after August, which I am leaving open for you to think about or to analyze, the incumbent and the elected representatives feel that adjustments have to be made to the constitution to accommodate the legislative, administrative and political structures so that the country can enter a stage of increased consultations, the government will not take issue with this, and it is willing to take the initiative to discuss whether the next representatives assembly can include with effective voice and vote, with full legislative powers, the vice presidents elected in every province into the National Legislation Council.

Furthermore, as food for thought, if you do not feel that this is sufficient, we are even [willing] to include the entire assembly, to grant the entire assembly the real power to legislative and not have any laws that are not approved by consensus, a consensus of half the members plus one, and this would compel the executive branch to consult more extensively, more profoundly and more regularly on laws which have great significance in the national life. This also compels the representative to consult the various opinion groups existing in his electoral jurisdiction because if he does not consult with them and airs views that are not checked out with the people who elected him, he could make any of the mistakes that would lead to the revoking of his mandate.

All these ideas are aimed at achieving a somewhat more flexible administration, a legislation that is closer to the people and is the result of greater consultation. The executive branch would also be willing to share its responsibilities in certain important administration posts, such as certain autonomous agencies, by submitting the appointment of certain directors to the approval of the representative assembly. In other words, if the executive branch submits the appointment and the assembly does not confirm it, the assembly would be involved in the election of those who from prominent positions have to cope with major national work groups. Thus we are giving the 505 representatives what in the United Nations could be called a veto power.

The public forces which I am honored to command do not harbor and have never harbored the intention of making incorrect, domineering, terrorizing use of Article 2 of the constitution. What does scare the public forces, and I want to state it through the most outstanding representatives [of the people], is the prospect of going back to those times when the public forces were consulted only to be ordered to fix the bayonet and disrupt the tranquility, the liberties of all those men who, filled with extreme emotion regarding the cause of their country, could not endure so many injustices and consequently disrupted order by staging demonstrations. What order did they disrupt, I wonder. The order established by the governments of the chosen group and for the chosen group.

Indeed, the officers have asked me that if there is any change, any constitutional adjustment, [cualquier cambio, cualquier ajuste constitucional] it reduce the possibilities that the public forces may be used as forces of revenge or reprisal to correct the errors, the neglect, the carelessness and the frauds of the governments, as we were so often used in the past.

I am airing all these views because I am convinced of the value of the system, a system which honors the natural leaders in every community, a system which gives opportunities to all those who really deserve them and a system in which leading a man to the polling booth to cast his vote of support for the natural leader is a fact that is viewed as a conversation between two neighbors and as a commitment that one neighbor enters into with another. It is a system that is based on real, not apparent, democracy, a system which tackles real, not apparent, problems, a system which aims for real solutions and not apparent solutions. If, despite the system, isolated instances have occurred in the administration, and isolated instances have indeed occurred, they had to occur. [sentence as heard] Let us not deceive ourselves, they will not be completely eradicated. But they are isolated instances. They do not constitute the overall conduct of the government. Proof of this is that, once they were discovered, punishment was meted out. How? The greatest punishment for whoever misuses state funds or his powers is not prosecution, because prosecutors hardly even punish anymore since the thieves do not leave a bill, and if one does not have a bill they are not punished. The greatest punishment is publicity. That is it. The press commending, or punishing [sancionando] someone who does not deserve to be applauded. I say that this system aims for real solutions [causas], because throughout 9 years we have been able to introduce many real solutions. We have been able to eradicate many problems the lack of solution of which once kept the people in a constant state of protest. But back then it was much easier for the governments to stay in power because they had a well-behaving and ordinary [adocenada] guard which was capable of hurting, imprisoning or killing even the lowliest student representative or even the lowliest son of this poor people. Thank you. [applause]

NEGOTIATOR LOPEZ GUEVARA ANALYZES DECONCINI RESERVATION

PA311330Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 30 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The government has sponsored a series of informational meetings with communications media representatives to explain those points of the treaties which the government feels should be made clear to the community. The second meeting of this series was held today with negotiator Carlos Alfredo Lopez Guevara presiding. Lopez Guevara began by saying that there is a basic problem in the usage of the words, conditions, reservations and understandings. According to Lopez Guevara, these are terms used by the Senate in its internal relations with the U.S. President. What must be clear, Lopez Guevara said, is that the two countries are bound by the contents of the notes exchanged on the ratification documents. He added that whatever is said in exchange notes will also be negotiated, and the two countries will be bound by it.

However, Lopez Guevara said that Panama has formally requested these documents in order to have a more specific idea of the scope of the terms used by the Senate and their connotation in the U.S. legal system.

Lopez Guevara explained the meaning of the word reservation as it is used in international law. He said that it means a counterproposal made by one party to the other. This counterproposal can be accepted, rejected or negotiated upon by the other party. If one of the parties rejects the counterproposal or reservation and at the same time presents another, this must be done before the exchange of notes because one cannot participate in the exchange ceremony with reservations.

Lopez Guevara described the exchange of notes as a ceremony that should be carried out based on the identical English and Spanish versions of the text previously approved by the two parties, the United States and Panama in this case.

During the question and answer period, Lopez Guevara expressed his point of view by stressing that he feels it is important for Panama to reiterate the principle of non-intervention in the exchange of notes. According to Lopez Guevara, not as a negotiator or government official, but in his own personal opinion, the two amendments known as the leadership amendments are an expansion of the Torrijos-Carter memorandum of understanding issued on 14 October 1977. According to Lopez Guevara, the Nunn reservation does not contradict specific regulations of the treaty because in the same fashion in which Panama can negotiate commercial and agriculture treaties with the United States it can also negotiate in the future a possible U.S. military presence.

Lopez Guevara added, still expressing his personal opinion, that just as a constitutional regulation could be used to dispose of the Nunn reservation, there are legal arguments which could also be used to detract from the value of this reservation.

Lopez Guevara answered a question regarding Aristides Royo's recent trip to Washington by saying that today's meeting was not held for the purpose of releasing news but for the journalists and government officials to talk. He referred to Royo's trip to Washington as a dialog held by the two parties.

During the meeting Lopez Guevara said on three different occasions that the national government has not adopted a position regarding the amendments and reservations introduced by the U.S. senators in the ratification process in the United States. He said that the government will adopt a position as soon as the U.S. Senate completes the U.S. ratification process. He described a preliminary statement as unnecessary.

Replying to questions, Lopez Guevara said that the documents issued by the Foreign Ministry would open what he termed to be a full range of possibilities regarding a national consensus. In giving his opinion as a lawyer, he stressed that if the amendments and reservations introduced by the Senate and included in the ratification resolution involve substantial changes to the treaties approved by the Panamanian people, then another plebiscite would have to be held.

However, Lopez Guevara made his very personal interpretation of the DeConcini reservation. He said that it is a naked and bare-faced interpretation of Article 4 of the neutrality treaty. He said this naked and bare-faced presentation is in fact more offensive, but that it does not detract from what is stated in Article 4 of the neutrality treaty. However, Lopez Guevara conceded that DeConcini's reasons for the reservation given to the Senate on 16 March would serve, in case of doubt, as a reference point to clarify the extent of the reservation approved and included in the resolution of ratification. Lopez Guevara estimated that if Panama makes an effort to reaffirm the nonintervention principle expressed in the exchange of notes, this principle would prevail over the DeConcini reservation because it has legal precedence. In any case, Lopez Guevara replied to questions of possible U.S. intervention in Panama as a result of the DeConcini reservation. First, he said, the U.S. attitude at the present time would not permit the disembarkation of Marines, as in Santo Domingo. Second, after the U.S. experience in Vietnam, the Senate would not permit U.S. troops to be sent abroad again. Third, the attitude of the U.S. people is changing. He noted in this respect that it had not taken him, Lopez Guevara, more than 10 minutes to change the mind of an average U.S. citizen by explaining things to him. Fourth, he has faith in what he perceives to be the honesty of U.S. youth.

Lopez Guevara rejected the notion that during the neutrality treaty debates the U.S. senators made a show of arrogance by taking into consideration only the interests of their own country without any consideration for the small country they were dealing with. Lopez Guevara mentioned the names of two or three senators, including Frank Church, who spoke in favor of Panama. The Senate is made up of 100 senators. He did not make any comments on the statements of minority leader Howard Baker, who immediately after the voting on the neutrality treaty told the U.S. press that he had never before received such a large amount of mail as that received by the Senate against the Panama Canal treaties.

Even though Lopez Guevara showed respect for freedom of the press, a freedom accepted by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry itself, he warned of the danger of elaborating on the possibilities of intervention opened by the DeConcini reservation, noting that this could serve as a precedent and that there was no reason to play into the hand of the North Americans.

COLUMNIST CALLS SOME TREATY AMENDMENTS ACCEPTABLE

PA021937Y Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 2 Apr 78 p 6-a PA

["Macheteando" column by Mario Augusto Rodriguez: "Acceptable Amendments"]

[Excerpts] Among the additions which the U.S. Senate made to the Torrijos-Carter treaty to transform it into a different treaty, there are, in my opinion, some which would be acceptable or, even more, would have to be accepted by our government and people. I refer to those which constitute only a transcription of the memorandum of understanding agreed to by President Carter and Chief of Government Torrijos before the treaties were submitted in a plebiscite to the Panamanian people. It is true that the memorandum was never signed by either Carter or Torrijos. But it was publicly accepted by both government leaders, that is to say, it is backed by their word. And the word of a statesman, of a government leader, is worth as much as or more than his signature. In Panama's case it is true that the memorandum was not included among the documents specifically listed on the ballot. But it is equally true that its text was known much in advance, that it was public knowledge that General Torrijos had not only approved it but had expressed his willingness to sign it. That is to say, when we went to the polls and chose the affirmative answer by a majority of over two-thirds, we knew exactly that the corresponding texts were interpreted and would be applied in accordance with the explanation contained in the memorandum subsequently added as an "amendment" by the Senate.

In addition, the text of the memorandum of understanding in no way changes the significance of the dispositions originally included in the Torrijos-Carter treaty concerning neutrality.

Immediately after the "amendments" consisting of the Torrijos-Carter memorandum of understanding come the "understandings" added by the Senate on its own account and at its own risk. The first "understanding" refers specifically to Article V of the Torrijos-Carter treaty on neutrality. It is the most important article for Panama and in a clear and precise way guarantees our rights and responsibilities after the year 2000.

That article is also convenient for the United States because it guarantees that Panama will not be able to permit the military forces of any other country to occupy areas which up until that date had been occupied--although in an evidently arbitrary way--by the U.S. military. But it appears that not even that guarantee was sufficiently satisfactory for the minority of conservative senators who were able to impose their prejudices and perplexities "democratically" upon the majority of their colleagues and even the Government of the United States.

In effect, the triumphant minority's attachment says that, notwithstanding the provisions of Article V, "if the canal is closed or its operations interfered with, the Republic of Panama and the United States shall each independently have the right to take such steps as they deem necessary, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, including the use of military force to reopen the canal or restore the operations of the canal, as the case may be." That is to say, when the United States, on its own and without consulting, informing or even having Panama in mind, believes canal operations are being interfered with, it can make use of its military forces to restore such operations, which is the same as establishing that the United States will have jurisdictional and military rights over the interoceanic canal.

PANAMENIST PARTY CONSIDERS TREATY CHANGES OFFENSIVE

PA010235Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Panamenist Party considers that the reservations, amendments and understandings made by the U.S. Senate to the Panama Canal neutrality treaty are offensive to national dignity.

A communique was issued by this party and signed by its members and the political committee composed of Luis F. Cleman, Jose Salvador Munoz and Guillermo Endara. The communique states that this political organization held a nationwide consultation and arrived at the conclusion that the canal treaty and the treaty on neutrality complicate existing problems, create new conflicts and commit our territory still more to U.S. domination.

The communique recalls that last 18 October the Panamenist Party asked the people to vote against the treaties in the plebiscite. The Panamenists say in conclusion that in view of the existing situation, they are making another appeal for national unity and for the establishment of what they call a democratic regime.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, COMPANIES SETTLE DIFFERENCES

PA010332Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] This morning the Panamanian Chamber of Construction [CAPAC] and the Single Workers Union [Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores] signed an agreement settling their differences. In the agreement, drafted by the Labor Directorate headed by Julio Cesar Acosta, this office establishes the minimum salary increase at 5 cents an hour for all workers of CAPAC companies.

The agreement also includes the acceptance by both parties of a minimum salary increase for workers of all categories. The increase is subject to a negotiated collective agreement between the organizations. The agreement establishes an hourly increase of 5 cents during each year of its duration, beginning 1 April 1978.

CAPAC will withdraw its objections to the resolution issued by Julio Cesar Acosta. Both parties agreed that the Labor Directorate will draft the resolution settling their differences over the implementation of Law 95.

COSTA RICA

CENTRAL BANK DENIES POSSIBILITY OF CURRENCY DEVALUATION

PA312025Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Central Bank does not administer the economy like a state secret, the bank reiterated in a written statement issued by its Executive President Juan Arrea, in reference to a LA NACION editorial entitled "The Economy as a State Secret."

In a 7-point statement, the Central Bank said: The statement made by the executive president of the Central Bank to all the news media and published on 29 March under the title "There Is No Danger of Devaluation" was intended not to start a quarrel with LA NACION, but rather to completely discredit the allegation made by that newspaper, based on false information, that a change in the parity of the colon was likely.

The Central Bank statement says that since the Central Bank has foreseen a deficit of \$28.5 million in the balance of payments and not \$500 million as the LA NACION editorial claims, there is definitely no possibility of a devaluation. The bank statement later adds: The Central Bank has been extremely generous in providing information and figures of all kinds with regard to the present economic situation, particularly to Guillermo Gonzalez Truque, president-designate of the bank for the next administration. The Central Bank again reiterates to the public that there is no danger of devaluation if the policies adopted for 1978 are respected.

MILITARY DENIES PRESSURING DEPUTIES TO APPROVE BUDGET

PA312005Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] We will turn over our weapons and barracks on 8 May at noon; we are the most surprised, Col Oscar Vidal Quesada, director of public forces, said this morning in reference to a report published in a major newspaper today. The high-ranking officer denied a report that the military is pressuring deputies to approve the special budget which covers the payment of legal benefits to the military before 8 May in exchange for the turnover by the military of barracks, weapons, ammunition and government installations.

In another portion of his statements regarding the report published today to the effect that the military will not turn in its weapons until it is certain that its benefits will be paid, Colonel Vidal said that a special law covers these payments and that this situation is normal in every change of administration.

There has been strong reaction today within the Ministry of Public Security to the article in today's issue of a newspaper to the effect that high-ranking military authorities had decided to turn over their weapons and barracks only in exchange for payment of their legal benefits. One comment came from the director of the (DIC) [expansion unknown] himself, Maj Rafael Angel Gutierrez, in a written statement released this very morning. In regard to the content of the report which specifically referred to his office, Major Gutierrez wrote to the editor of the newspaper giving a clarification. He noted that it is the policy of his office to release information to authorized sources only through the director and deputy director of the (DIC), a fact that is well known to newsmen who visit the (DIC) every day. In this specific case, the undersigned states that at no time have I authorized the report published today. I did not authorize it, nor was it authorized by any member of this staff, since it goes against my principles and is in complete violation of our constitution.

EL SALVADOR

ARMY COMMUNIQUE ON DISLODGING PEASANTS IN SAN PEDRO PERULIPAN

PA311406Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A communique issued by the Ministry of Defense and Public Security has announced that persons who had taken up positions in the cantons and surrounding areas of San Pedro Perulipan were dislodged by means of a persuasion and preventive action operation [as heard] which was carried out throughout the area affected by the actions of the Farm Workers Union and the Popular Revolutionary Bloc. The operation was launched in an effort to protect the lives and property of individuals, to restore order and tranquillity in the region and to bring before the courts those persons involved in the subversive activities that sought to disrupt the social peace of the republic. In addition, the Defense Ministry said that the arrival of the security corps in San Pedro Perulipan has restored the confidence of residents, who will thereby be protected for some time.

PROPAGANDA BOMBS EXPLODE ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

PA311801Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Three bombs exploded last night on the campus of the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University, which is located 6 km west of the downtown sector of this capital. On exploding, the bombs strewed forth copies of the clandestine newspaper EL REBELDE, mouthpiece of the leftist Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Front (FPL), which for some time has carried out kidnappings of prominent persons, bank robberies, radio station takeovers and attacks against security corps agents, among other actions.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT DENIES SOMOZA HOSPITALIZED IN U.S.

PA311348Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] President Somoza is not ill in the United States as has been rumored. He is in Miami, Florida, with relatives attending to private and state matters. A statement to this effect was made last night by Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora Rostran, who is in charge of the presidency. The minister added that Somoza will return within 2 or 3 days and that on Tuesday he will meet with newsmen at the officer's club. Rumors circulating in Managua reported that Somoza had been admitted to a hospital in Houston, Miami or Boston, but the government has put a stop to such speculation.

OPPOSITION REITERATES REJECTION OF DIALOG WITH SOMOZA

PA012137Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2041 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--In statements to the local news media, the leaders of the opposition political parties continue to reject Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza's proposal to hold a dialog. Leaders of the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN) have even mentioned the possibility of a dialog between the traditional opposition and the PLN without the participation of General Somoza. The opposition leaders have repeatedly said that Somoza's proposal to hold a dialog has not been accepted by any sector because "40 years of dictatorship has removed all credibility and value from Somoza's word."

The opposition believes that in order to establish a dialog between the opposition and the PLN--without Somoza--the Liberals must first prove that they can act independently in solving various demands. These include resolving the case of the missing peasants and the murder of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, abrogation of the radio and television code known as the "black code," a change in the army's command, amnesty for political prisoners, labor union freedom and other popular demands.

In view of these events, it must be noted that President Somoza will hold a news conference on Tuesday at which he might refer to the ongoing situation in Nicaragua and may reiterate his offer to hold a dialog with the groups which oppose his administration.

LIBERALS PROPOSE DIALOG WITH OPPOSITION WITHOUT SOMOZA

PA010010Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2109 GMT 30 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--A high-ranking spokesman of the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN) today admitted that a dialog between the opposition and the PLN without the participation of Gen Anastasio Somoza is feasible.

In view of the fact that the opposition leaders have steadfastly refused to hold a dialog with the Nicaraguan president to find a solution to the country's difficult political problems, the Liberals have decided to take the initiative to establish that dialog. For this reason, PLN Senator J. David Zamora issued an open letter proposing a dialog between the Liberals and the opposition without the presence of General Somoza.

The proposal calls for an urgent civic exercise from party to party, organization to organization or sector to sector "in order to have negotiations to prevent more violence, destruction, death and sorrow among Nicaraguan civilians and militarymen."

Interviewed by ACAN-EFE, PLN political secretary Alceo Tablada Solis said that the proposal of Senator Zamora, a member of the party's National Directorate, does not go against the party's discipline and principles. Tablada Solis said that "the opposition is mistaken if it believes that there are disagreements within Liberalism. We are an organized and peaceful party which is constantly increasing its membership to confront any eventuality."

Referring to the attitude of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party [PCN], which is ready to abandon the side of the government with which it has cooperated during recent decades through pacts with the Somozas to join the collective opposition struggle in demand of President Somoza's resignation, the Liberal spokesman said: "Confronting the electoral reform submitted to Congress by the Liberal government to establish in Nicaragua the ideological pluralism announced by Somoza on 26 February, Conservatism is retreating to the other groups, aware of its weak popular support." "The Conservatives," Tablada Solis added, "want the Liberals to manufacture votes for them. They claim they distrust the electoral tribunals because of the same reason of the absence of voters as has been shown in the past elections in which Fernando Aguero Rocha and Edmundo Paguage were candidates." [sentence as received]

Tablada Solis said that throughout the country's political history, Liberalism has supported dialog and revolutionary social advances, as established in its statutes, principles and government programs. The ruling party's political secretary said that "the constitutional reforms being debated in the legislature are a political advance in our country and an appropriate framework for a frank and patriotic dialog between Nicaraguans of good faith who are willing to contribute to the progress of Nicaragua in peace and dignity."

HAVANA CONTINUES REPORTAGE ON CARTER'S LATIN VISIT

FAR Commentary on Reasons for Visit

FL311630Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information program commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter is currently making his first tour of Latin American and African countries, a trip which includes Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia. The tour's objectives, among many, is to repair to some degree the North American image with respect to Latin American countries and to seek support for the so-called new African policy. In both cases, Washington is attempting to improve conditions to continue exploiting the natural resources of countries in the two continents.

Latin America is increasingly displeased because of the looting of their economies by North American monopolies. Several states now see in the work of the transnationals the objective cause for restraints they suffer in economic development. Of the \$104.9 billion in profits of Yankee transnationals in 1977, a large part came from looting Latin American natural resources. The imperialist exploitation in the continent is such that even the OAS has been forced to admit that the dependence of many countries with respect to the United States has increased.

Last year the Latin American nations registered a deficit of \$906 million in their trade with Washington. The protectionist and discriminatory measures recently imposed by the United States on sugar imports have considerably affected the Latin American sugar-exporting countries. Another element which has affected U.S. relations with Latin America is Washington's demagogic campaign on human rights. The United States supports and maintains throughout the continent the most reactionary and fascist regimes, of which there are more than enough examples.

Other hot issues on the Latin American scene are the U.S. attempts to perpetrate its neocolonial control over the Panama Canal and to complete the assimilation of Puerto Rico. Latin America is following very closely the North American Senate debates on the new canal treaties signed with Panama. The Yankee intentions of including amendments and reservations in the documents which would guarantee the U.S. right to intervene in the domestic affairs of Panama and to exercise in perpetuity control--including military--over the canal are termed evidence of the policy of meddling in and violation of the legitimate rights of other states.

One aspect of the Carter agenda is in Venezuela to feel out the oil problem. In that field, the United States has taken unilateral and discriminatory steps and currently applies domestic protectionist measures in the energy field which affect Venezuela and other producers. President Carlos Andres Perez has openly criticized North American legislation establishing trade barriers against Venezuela because it is a member of OPEC.

In Brazil Jimmy Carter will have an opportunity to appreciate the results of the so-called "economic miracle" which Washington sponsored. Brazil is enduring the blows of the capitalist economic crisis. A large part of the population is suffering from hunger. Sixty percent of the Brazilian economy is in the hands of North American corporations and the trade deficit has already reached the \$117.78 billion mark. One topic the North American head of state wants to discuss with Geisel is that dealing with the Brazilian efforts to install nuclear power plants purchased in the FRG, an aspect over which the United States has not expressed the least pleasure.

In Africa, where the United States has been the main sponsor of armed invasions, border conflicts, attempted reactionary coups d'etat and has supported the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia, Carter will try to propose formulas and survey the results of the new African policy being followed by Washington since the Ford and Kissinger era. In the midst of an acute capitalist crisis and its sinister consequences for the underdeveloped world, the United States is seeking to enhance its image and create shelters which will facilitate its hegemonic influence in order to continue looting and exploiting African and Latin American peoples.

Reports Carter Press Conference

FL311440Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Text] North American President Jimmy Carter yesterday departed from Brasilia for Rio de Janeiro--where he was going to spend the night and hold meetings today with nonofficial personalities--after holding three rounds of talks with Brazilian regime chief Ernesto Geisel. In the talks with the Brazilian dictator, Carter discussed several topics, both international and bilateral, among them the nuclear agreement signed by Brazil with the FRG in 1975, which provoked serious protests by the United States because it was left out of enormous profits.

In a press conference held yesterday, the North American head of state pointed out that Brazil had made great progress in the human rights issue, which is contrary to news received from Brazil in recent weeks that speak of a wave of murders, arbitrary arrests, tortures and disappearances. In a speech before the Brazilian Congress, Carter tried to enhance Brazil's foreign image by even calling it "this great congress" when that institution has no decisive role in the military regime, which controls everything. Likewise, the North American president stimulated the chauvinist conceit of the Brazilian military in a toast Wednesday night by stating that "we realize that Brazil and the United States share responsibilities in world leadership."

Scores Carter on Brazil's 'Preferential Role'

FL011701Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Reports from Rio de Janeiro state that the visit to Brazil by North American President Jimmy Carter ended in an atmosphere of repeated references to the preferential role the United States grants to that South American country. Carter stressed that Brazil is one of the world leaders, and this was confirmed in the joint communique at the conclusion of his visit. He said that the common objectives of Brazil and the United States are stronger than the differences that might exist, adding that the ties between the two governments are unbreakable.

During Carter's visit, the Brazilian pro-amnesty committee issued an open letter charging that the Geisel regime has exiled, tortured and assassinated more than 10,000 citizens.

Carter Lowers 'Human Rights' Banner

FL010103Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Tied down by the contradictions in his policy, North American President Jimmy Carter today left Brazil after having lowered his fading banners of alleged defense of human rights and having recognized the North American-Brazilian agreement drawn up by Henry Kissinger in 1976, which grants Brazil a privileged status on the continent.

Nor could Carter succeed in having the Brazilian authorities allow Yankee transnational enterprises participation in a nuclear contract running into the millions signed with West Germany. On the other hand, he stated publicly that Brazil had made progress with regard to observing human rights, ignoring confirmed cases of torture and oppression of all types in a country muzzled without any political or labor rights.

Jimmy Carter has left for Lagos, capital of Nigeria, beginning an African tour which will also take him to Liberia.

Nigerian Papers Oppose Visit

FL011801Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter yesterday arrived in Nigeria from Brazil. This is the third stop of his tour of several Latin American and African countries. Commenting on the arrival of the North American chief executive, the newspaper NEW NIGERIAN emphasized in its editorial that Nigerians understandably are not too enthusiastic with the 3-day visit to that country by the U.S. President. This and other Nigerian papers have emphasized in the past few days the active North American trade and enormous investments in South Africa and Namibia and Washington's hostility toward the patriots of Zimbabwe who are struggling against the racist Rhodesian regime.

'LETTER FROM FREDDY' ON CARTER VISIT, MIAMI CUBANS

FL312340Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Guido Garcia Inclan commentary: "Letter from Freddy"]

[Text] In a surprising manner, this morning we received a letter from our reporter friend Freddy. We thought he was traveling to Venezuela accompanying the U.S. President on his visit, which is also surprising, when we received a letter from our friend from New York. Reporters have to be that way, Marti said; they have to keep moving, never knowing where they might appear, because news does not stay in any one place. Let's get to his letter:

Dear Guido, do not be surprised by the postmark on this letter. It should have been from Caracas, Venezuela, but at the last minute they changed the assignments and my friend Jack--you remember Jack O'Brien--went to Andres Perez' country. And I had to make a fast trip to New York for a special report which the "HERALD" needed for Sunday. That is our mission, as you would say.

Miami is pretty quiet, with just a few small disturbances as the result of racism, something which will be no news to you, but this is what happens there concerning the matter of rights. This is the result of restlessness.

On the other hand, the refugees are quiet because lately they have been called up by Immigration. Behave. It was about time that this be done because they were a little scandalous, and in these times all of this is very very dangerous.

With my friend Jorge, I am sending a lot of material from here, New York, and the book you asked me for on electronic journalism.

My planned trip remains firm. My trip to Cuba within a couple of months for the [youth] festival remains firm. I'll be seeing you. Receive my strong embrace, Freddy.

EFE: MALMIERCA IN PARIS HOSPITAL WITH AMOEBIC DYSENTERY

PA010121Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Paris, 31 Mar (EFE)--It was learned today that Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has been hospitalized in Paris since Thursday, is suffering from amoebic dysentery. Sources at the Henri Mondor Hospital said that the illness is not serious. The Cuban foreign minister arrived in Paris from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) after interrupting a visit to other African countries. A Cuban doctor attached to the Cuban Embassy in Paris, whose name was not made public, as well as French doctors are looking after the patient.

'ARAFAT MEETS CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

FLO20030Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Beirut--Leader of Palestinian resistance Yasir 'Arafat has met with Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon Alberto Velazco. They discussed the Palestinian people's present situation.

RAUL CASTRO RECEIVES CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

FLO11655Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Lidiya Lykova, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee on the work and life of women, maternity care and protection of children.

Lidiya Lykova was accompanied at the meeting by the other members of the delegation she heads as well as Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and president of the Federation of Cuban Women.

CUBA, USSR SIGN ENERGY COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

FLO11751Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Cuba and the Soviet Union in Moscow have signed several cooperation agreements in the energy field which will help develop this field in our country. The agreements cover, among other things, the Soviet Union's supply of equipment, materials and technical assistance for the expansion of the Antonio Maceo thermoelectric plant to increase its capacity to 500 megawatts. The agreements between the Soviet Union and Cuba also include the construction of a 300-megawatt thermoelectric plant in Havana City.

VICE FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER

FLO12311Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2235 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Jose R. Viera has met with Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Milos Minic. The Cuban vice foreign minister and his host discussed the upcoming nonaligned countries meeting and the strengthening of the unity and action capabilities of the movement.

Viera, who today left for Havana, arrived in Belgrade on 28 March. During his stay in that capital, he met with other high Yugoslav Foreign Affairs Secretariat officials. The upcoming meetings of nonaligned countries, especially the meeting of the Coordination Bureau in Kabul, Afghanistan, in early May, were among the main topics discussed. The nonaligned summit meeting will be held in Havana next year.

CUBA, POLAND ESTABLISH DIRECT TELEPHONE LINK

FL312213Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2033 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Text] With a telephone conversation between Pedro Guelmes, PCC Central Committee member and Cuban communications minister and Professor and Engineer Edward Kowalczyk, Polish communications minister, the [telephone] link which joins the two countries was officially inaugurated today. In the telephone conversation, the Cuban communications minister stated that today is a special day for the two countries because for the first time Cuba has had a direct link with Poland. He also stated that the new telephone link between Cuba and Poland will permit communication with other countries, since to date this has only been possible through the Intersputnik system, which he indicated works very well.

Also in on the telephone line inauguration were Cuban First Vice Minister of Communications Rene Hernandez (Cartalla) and Polish Ambassador Ryszard Majchrzak.

In a brief meeting with the press, engineer Salvador Gutierrez, national director of radio of the Cuban Communications Ministry, stated that with this inauguration of the telephone link between Cuba and Poland there are now four such lines with the socialist camp. He added that the achievement was the result of an agreement made by the Intersputnik system administrative council which planned the telephone circuit between Cuba and Poland for this year. For his part, Eng Felix Santiago, director of Cuban International Telecommunications, said that a telephone call between Havana and Warsaw will cost 12.54 pesos for 3 minutes. To make the call, one needs to dial 09 in Havana City and 00 in the interior of the country.

CUBA-GUINEA-BISSAU COMMITTEE MEETS TO EXPAND RELATIONS

FL312123Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1920 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Text] In the capital of Guinea-Bissau, a Cuban-Guinean governmental committee began meetings to study aspects of strengthening cooperation between their respective countries. The head of the Cuban delegation, Light Industries Minister Nora Frometa Silva, stated that the Cuban Government is striving to develop and expand bilateral relations between the two countries in the fields of public health, agriculture, education and fishing.

ROBERTO VEIGA MEETS WITH QUEBEC LABOR DELEGATION

FL311900Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Roberto Veiga, Secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--has received a group of trade union leaders from Quebec, Canada at the CTC headquarters. At the meeting, the Canadian delegation expressed interested in worker participation in the country's economic development, their duties and rights and trade union support for the revolutionary administration.

COUNCIL OF STATE NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN

FL011817Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Council of State has named Comrade Jose A. Guerra Menchero as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Government of Japan. Comrade Guerra Menchero was director of the Foreign Ministry's Directorate for Asia and Oceania.

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